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Final issue bonus

TODAY'S ASW IS BIGGEST OF ALL!

BY DAVID JACK (Editor)

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY makes history today with the biggest and best issue ever produced.

We thought it appropriate to end the 1984 season with a bang.

That is why your favourite Soccer newspaper has been stretched to a massive, and we trust very readable, 32 pages today.



Many new ideas and features have gone into this issue, our final fling until the start of the 1985 season.

We hope you like the full-page pictures, the colour photographs taken by our ace photographer David Jellings and the special review of all 24 clubs in the National Soccer League.



But we haven't neglected ASW's regular features ... indeed we have gone even bigger on them.

For instance, the UK Soccer Scene and Keith Gilmour's Junior Section have been enlarged.



We hope you like this rather special edition of AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY.

And we end the year with a huge vote of thanks to our many regular readers and all the advertisers without whose help ASW would not be in business.

HAVE A HAPPY OFF-SEASON — AND PLEASE JOIN US AGAIN IN 1985.

Colourful action at St George Stadium during the exciting Australian Conference grand final between Sydney Olympic and Sydney City. Joe Watson has the ball but Jim Patikas looks as if he is ready to grab it.



EDITORIAL

SO the 1984 Soccer season has ended ... at last. There should be a monster sigh of relief spreading through the game.

Without wishing to be branded "negative" yet again, AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY is surely not out of place to call this just about the worst season the code has experienced in the past 25 years.

On the debit side, the attendances at matches, both NSL and State League, were woeful.

Fortunately this disaster was alleviated slightly in the closing weeks of the season when the top five play-offs attracted quite good crowds. But Australian Soccer is in a bad way when it has to rely to such a large degree on the enthusiasm of Greek migrants to stay afloat.

Crowds in Melbourne during the year were regularly bigger than those in Sydney and the least said about Brisbane and Adelaide the better.

Newcastle and Wollongong, cities which in previous years have supported Soccer very well, also fell by the wayside.

Canberra's crowds, too, were below par.

Crowds are dropping all over the world, of course, and in many different sports. But we may be sure they will not drop in Italy this season because, in that country, the fans are being given magnificent entertainment provided by the world's best players.

Nobody expects Australia to follow suit — not without mortgaging the whole nation — but we feel crowds could be increased if administrators running the sport did not make so many basic blunders.

For instance, the National League set-up this year was a dreadful concoction.

There were far too many teams and the "conference" idea, including challenge matches, baffled the public.

It is easy enough to blame the man who designed it but let us not forget his plan was accepted, without reservation, by the clubs. They gave the green light to conference Soccer and must take the blame when it did

not work.

Another blunder was the one-month break in the NSL programme to accommodate friendly fixtures against visiting international teams.

That World Series gave the Socceroos valuable match practice but a heavy price was paid when it rudely interrupted the major competition and just about wrecked the NSL Cup.

On top of this, the series probably had a hefty debit balance although we still await news on this from the Australian Soccer Federation.

With so many things going wrong in 1984, let us hope the game has finally reached the bottom of the barrel and will start its steady recovery from this point.

Yet 1984 did have its bright side.

It saw the emergence of genuine talent among young Australians, with many filling key positions in the top teams in the NSL.

Youngsters who were still learning the game in the 1981 and 1983 World Youth Championships have been transformed into outstanding senior players.

Names like Peter Raskopoulos, Oscar Crino, Robbie Wheatley, Paul Kay, Grant Lee, Jim Patikas, Tony Dakos, Frank Farina, Ray Vlietstra, Howard Tredinnick, Anthony Franken and Joe Rizzotto spring to mind.

Be sure there will be many more in the next few years — unless the ASF falls for that pathetic plea from some clubs to throw open the doors to imports.

The days are gone when Australian Soccer had to rely on washed-up rejects from the UK and Europe to fill its first grade sides. There will always be room here for imports possessing real talent but the sport must never again permit the unrestricted import of players wanting to pick up a few easy bucks here after their careers are over in their own country.

Australia's Soccer future rests in the capable hands of its young players, aided by intelligent and knowledgeable coaches.

The young players' chances of success would be dramatically improved if we had a good clear-out of elderly administrators — but that's another story!

ABONYI SET TO BOUNCE BACK

DESPITE his traumas of the last two years, former Socceroo Atti Abonyi is again keen to coach a club next year.

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

Croatia after only eight weeks but I don't bear any grudges against the club," Abonyi added.

Many close followers of the round-ball code were stunned when Abonyi was given the chop after only eight rounds.

"I'll wait and see what happens. If a club is interested I'm willing to talk but I'm not chasing any clubs."

The past two years in the coaching circle have been disappointing for Abonyi.

"Last year I coached Canberra for the second half of the season," the ex-World Cup striker said.

"I prefer to coach a club for the whole year and build for the future.

"This year it was disappointing leaving Sydney

"I liked the set-up there," he said.

"It was a new club and in our first year we built for the future. In 1982 we lost the competition on goal difference."

But what about his commitments with the national team?

"I'll have to see what happens after the world tour," Abonyi said.

"I don't know what Frank Arok has in mind. Eddie Thomson deserves to tour with the team.

"I like to think I'm still involved."

It would be a crying shame if Abonyi's coaching talents weren't utilised with a National League club next year.

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CHRISTOPOULOS - AROK 'WAR'

THE LETTER!

DEAR Frank Arok,
As national coach you have been outspoken about various players when asked why they are not in your squad. I have become increasingly distressed at your reported comments about me.

Beginning at a Canberra Arrows VIP dinner in April, while I was playing for AEK in Athens, you publicly doubted my fighting spirit or commitment on the field. More recently your remarks as quoted in the Greek press were even more pointed.

I want to set the record straight. About commitment to Australia, I have a greater dedication to the country than you have. I was born here, learned my Soccer here and will live here when I am no longer actively involved in the game.

As for commitment to Soccer, I left a comfortable and settled life in Melbourne, where I was a regular Socceroo, to come to Canberra to do a Sports Studies degree course. My BA in Sports Studies is for ploughing something back into Soccer. It is an attempt, at considerable personal cost, to gain something that will outlast my football skills, but something that I can devote to the good of the game.

You seem to doubt my dedication to Australian Soccer by making out that I was turning my back on Australia by going to play as a full-time professional overseas. The opposite is true. Surely any player who is good enough to earn a living as a full-time professional should be prepared to take his chances. My ambition was to improve myself as a player, and to be available for national selection.

The most damaging aspect of your reported comments concerns my physical or moral courage. You imply that I am not tough enough when the going gets hard. Your comments are probably defamatory, and I have thought seriously about putting the matter in the hands of a solicitor. People tend to believe that sort of thing when it is said by the national coach.

Instead, I have decided to go public, and issue copies of this letter to some members of the Soccer press. The only result I want is that you stop making public prejudicial comment about my professional standing.

I want you and others to judge me as a player and a man by what I do on and off the field. Your public comments can only come from a closed mind. People with closed minds should make a habit of keeping their mouths closed too.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE CHRISTOPOULOS.

GEORGE CHRISTOPOULOS has hit back at comments alleged to have been made by national coach Frank Arok.

Christopoulos has outlined his grievances in a letter to Arok.

He has made a copy available to AUSTRALIAN



□ GEORGE CHRISTOPOULOS (centre) wins this aerial battle.

SOCCER WEEKLY, which we have reproduced in full.

When we spoke to Arok, he had not received the letter and could not comment on the allegations.

However, Arok said: "The only way to be in-

cluded in the national squad is to perform on the field year after year.

Christopoulos had his chance in the games against New Zealand last year, and the weakest link

in those two games was the midfield."

Athens.

He returned to Canberra in late August, with coach Doug Collins using him to great effect in central defence.

WOLVES

WANT

McCULLOCH

BY BRAD EARL

MARCONI's Socceroo midfielder Tommy McCulloch is wanted by English club Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Wolves manager Tommy Docherty, who coached Sydney Olympic last year, wrote to McCulloch offering him a contract.

McCulloch, 20, spoke to Docherty last night to inform him that Marconi are prepared to negotiate with Wolverhampton, currently seventh bottom in second division.

The 1983 Australian Youth team captain is a member of the senior national squad which departs for the six-week tour of China and Europe tomorrow (Thursday).

Docherty has arranged to meet McCulloch in Manchester during the England leg of the tour.

"After the tour I want to have a bit of a break and then I will consider what I want to do," McCulloch said.

McCulloch is unemployed, and it has always been his ambition to play as a full-time professional in Britain.

At the end of last season he trained with first division club Southampton, who were very impressed by the young Socceroo.

DUE to production problems, it page issue, double the size of last week and, we believe, easily the best value in any Australian Soccer Newspaper.

But we have produced a 32-

OLYMPIC LOSE UK PLAYERS

BY BRAD EARL

SYDNEY OLYMPIC are likely to be without the services of two experienced defenders next season.

Right-back Martyn Rogers and stopper Mike Coady are returning to England after three years in Australia.

Rogers, 28, was brought to Olympic in 1981 by Tommy Docherty (who was his manager at Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers).

He is undecided about whether he will return to Australia.

Coady, 26, who played with Sunderland and Carlisle, said he will probably resettle in England with his young family.

The two defenders are not the only players Olympic are tipped to lose.

Reserve goalkeeper Peter Wilson wants a move, midfielder Gary Phillips is undecided about his future and Socceroo striker Marshall Soper has expressed a desire to join his hometown club, Newcastle.



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□ GOALMOUTH scramble at St George Stadium as South Melbourne goalie Peter Laumets dives for the ball at the feet of Olympic's Nick Theodorakopoulos, with John Yzendoorn and Alan Davidson covering their keeper.

AUSTRALIAN DECIDER GOES SOUTH

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

SOUTH MELBOURNE became the National Youth League Australian champions after defeating Melita Eagles 3-2 in a thrilling curtain-raiser to the National League grand final at St George Stadium.

Melita applied the early pressure and looked the better side in the first half, proving their superiority by opening the scoring in the fourth minute, when Lennie Vial hit a screamer from 30 metres into the top corner.

But South hit back four minutes later through Pepe Abraam, by far their best performer, when he latched on a rebound following a George Kalogerous shot and side-footed home from close range.

Both sides appeared suspect in defence, especially from set pieces and Melita's Peter Whiteside took advantage of this in the

12th minute when he hammered the ball home from outside the area following a free kick.

The Eagles sustained their pressure particularly down the South flanks through Vial, Tom Alexakis and Paul Andricopoulos. Their breaks led to the two Eagles goals.

However, their own defensive weaknesses were exposed several times. Manny Anezakis nearly equalised in the 16th minute when Eagles keeper Bill Londos failed to hold a Kalogerous free-kick but the keeper managed to smother the midfielder's attempt from point-blank range.

South eventually equalised when Jim Pasakos deftly sent a pass to Harry Mavridis, who ran on and slipped the ball under the body of the advancing keeper.

The second half was a tale of missed chances with Eagles the main culprits, missing glaring open goals that would have wrapped up the game.

Again, Vial and Andricopoulos played strongly, opening up the Victorian defence several times.

Three minutes from time, Melita should have sealed it when they broke through the defence with four against two.

Vial squared the ball to Andricopoulos, who hit the post with a chip, which he should have buried. Michael Tooma crossed the rebound and Vial headed just wide of the far post.

They paid the penalty for that miss dearly in the last minute of the game when Abraam settled the issue, finding himself in the clear from a good through ball, he coolly slotted the ball past the advancing Londos from close range, and South Melbourne were the first NYL Australian champions.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Turudia, Kassidas, Vardaxis, Moshopoulos, Anezakis, Kalogerous, Pasakos, Rizopoulos (Mermingas), Mavridis, Abraam, Kiakos.

MELITA EAGLES: Londos, Smith, Williams, Barrios, Alexakis, Johnston, Tooma, Callanan, Vial, Whiteside, Andricopoulos.

REFEREE: R. Doenau.

PATALIS AIMS FOR EUROPE

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

THIS time last year Terry Patalis was hailed as Sydney Olympic's newest star destined for the top.

Patalis would prefer to forget the last 12 months.

Sydney Olympic concluded their 1983 campaign by winning the NSL Cup and that was largely due to Patalis' finishing.

In fact, the 20-year-old striker netted both his team's goals to set Olympic on the path to their first major trophy.

This season Patalis has been sparingly used in the

first XI.

"I'll admit at the beginning of the year I was out of form," he said.

"I thought that I had started to get my act together but I wasn't able to secure a birth in the first team."

But Patalis may be lost to Australian Soccer. During the off-season he will be training with Greek first division club Ethnikos.

If he impresses, will he decide to stay overseas?

"Primarily, I'm going over there just to get experience," the ex-Canterbury-Marrickville striker said.

"If things work out and I make it, I will seriously consider staying there."

"I also have other options. It looks like I might also train with Iraklis and AEK," Patalis added.



□ HAPPIER days for Terry Patalis (left) last year.

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ROUND UP

SOUTH'S DISCIPLINED WIN

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE sheer coolness of South Melbourne skipper John Yzendoorn and his well-disciplined outfit under pressure was the outstanding feature in the team's National Championship victory at St George Stadium.

The clear-cut 2-1 second leg win duplicated the score in the earlier game at Olympic Park, Melbourne.

Over two years, South Melbourne have recorded 3-1, 2-1, 2-1 and again 2-1 results in their games against the NSW giants and that adds up to consistency and a flawless record.

This time the players each collected \$1,000 for their double win.

After the game, skipper Yzendoorn stood back and quietly savoured the national championship result, to which this year must be added the National Conference win, topping the minor premiership by five points, and a win in the Victorian Buffalo Cup to boot.

South Melbourne were shaky early in the year but at that stage they managed to keep their heads thanks to their granite-like defence.

After the World Soccer Series they sprang to life and since then have recorded 18 wins, one draw and one loss — what a record.

Sunday's game produced a marvellous display by the back-line of Bobby

Russell, Steve Blair, young Angie Postecoglou and Yzendoorn that blunted the attacking flair of the Olympic side.

After going into a 2-0 lead, which effectively put them ahead 4-1 on aggregate, the visitors could afford to stand back and let the Sydney side do their darndest.

In the second half the midfield was pulled back to blanket out the Olympic attack, which completely failed to latch on to a couple of dangerous free-kicks from Peter Katholos.

The game began with a tonne of bite, with Charlie Egan collecting the first yellow card from referee Chris Bambridge as early as the fourth minute.

Both South Melbourne goals came following corner kicks by Doug Brown, the second of which was a glorious inswing.

In the ninth minute, the ball went from Ken Murphy to Yzendoorn on to Oscar Crino, who was free of a marker and only had to tap the ball in.

Nine minutes later, another right wing corner flew across the box for Yzendoorn to head home

from 12 metres despite a valiant attempt from Gary Meir to parry it.

Before Nick Theodorakopoulos came with Olympic's goal, referee Bambridge had to caution Marshall Soper, Alan Davidson and Peter Raskopoulos as well as Egan.

Tony Dakos, superb in building attacks but with the need to work on his defensive game, made an opening with a telling pass to Chris Kalantzis and then Theodorakopoulos put the ball away.

The second half pattern

saw Souths continue with their two-man spearhead. Olympic usually had four defenders, two of whom could have been released more often for forays up the flanks.

The drumbeats rose to a crescendo as Olympic pressed forward and endeavoured to handle a defence in which Blair and Russell played as men inspired.

By this time, the players had decreased their early misdemeanours. Bambridge was right on top and left the Sydney crowd in no doubt that there must be a mighty whistler around if

there is currently a better one in Australia.

Kalantzis, Soper, Theodorakopoulos, Koussas and Jennings all had shots but their effectiveness perished on the rocks of a masterly defence.

Alan Davidson had an ordinary game. Afterwards he said that his marriage festivities the previous night had gone through to 3am.

South Melbourne coach Len McKendry praised defender Steve Blair as his man of the match.

Manfred Schaefer pointed to a great Olympic season. His only real regret on the day was the looseness in defence that allowed those two South Melbourne goals to go in.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumets, Russell, Blair,

Postecoglou, Yzendoorn, Davidson, Crino (Kanesoulis 50), Halford, Murphy, Egan, Brown.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Rogers (Koussas 65), Jennings, Coady.

REFEREE: C. Bambridge. **CROWD:** 11,221.



□ STEVE BLAIR wins a header.

MILD JIM WAS MAD JIM!

RARELY has a grand final been spiced with so much controversy as the first leg of the South Melbourne v Sydney Olympic match at Olympic Park, Melbourne.

Olympic president Jim Petinellis was like a man demented when it was all over. This normally mild-mannered character was stamping up and down the corridor outside the dressing rooms screaming that his team had been robbed and Olympic would not front for the return leg in Sydney.

Main target of his abuse was referee Doug Rennie, handing his last match before retiring.

What Petinellis said about poor Rennie is unprintable.

The main gripe, and it was shared by all Olympic players and officials, was that South's winning goal was offside.

The TV replay of the incident indicated the complaints WERE justified.

Referee Rennie insisted, though, that the goalscorer, Charlie Egan, was in his own half of the field when the ball was played to him — a view shared by not one person in the Olympic camp.

As a bit of "bonus" on this night of recrimination, Olympic also claimed Gary Phillips scored a perfectly good goal which was disallowed when South goalkeeper Peter Laumets fumbled Gary's shot and the

ball went over his head to bounce over the line.

TV, however, did not back up that Olympic claim.

The arguments raged through the night in Melbourne, and even increased on the following morning — thanks to a picture in the Melbourne Age.

Marshall Soper spotted it. The Age picture showed South Melbourne's first goal, with Ken Murphy standing on the goal line as Egan shot.

"Murphy must be offside — so that's two offside goals South Melbourne were given," complained Soper.

On the morning after, Jim Petinellis, though still angry, had cooled down somewhat and assured everyone Olympic would front for the Sunday game at St George Stadium.

But, as he said, "I went off my head a bit after the

match because, when you have such a huge financial stake in a club, you hate to see bad decisions in vital matches."

And, so to the match itself.

Olympic started like a house on fire, completely dictating everything for the opening 20 minutes.

They played accurate, brainy, football and threatened to run South off their feet.

Mark Koussas put the visitors a goal ahead after only five minutes when an excellent header by Tony Dakos from a Peter Katholos corner gave the scorer the easiest of goals.

A similar goal three minutes before half-time gave South the equaliser. Doug Brown took the corner, Steve Blair headed it down and, when goalkeeper Gary Meier made a rare mistake and could not hold

the ball, it fell to scorer Egan.

Then the so-controversial winning goal by Egan was lobbed over Meier's head 19 minutes into the second half, giving South Melbourne a one-goal advantage to take on their journey to Sydney.

Olympic should not be too unhappy about that. In the 88th minute, Brown tossed away a gift chance with only Meier to beat. Brown, too, hit the upright with a great first-half free-kick.

Looking back on those near-things, the Victorians just about deserved to finish in front — even with question marks against both their goals.

South Melbourne were best served by their excellent defence in which Bobby Russell, Steve Blair and

a very mobile John Yzendoorn shone. Also, Egan looked a slippery customer up front.

Olympic, handicapped when Jim Patikas was helped off with a badly swollen ankle in 33 minutes, did not play to their recent outstanding form.

They needed more penetration from Soper and Koussas but it was not forthcoming.

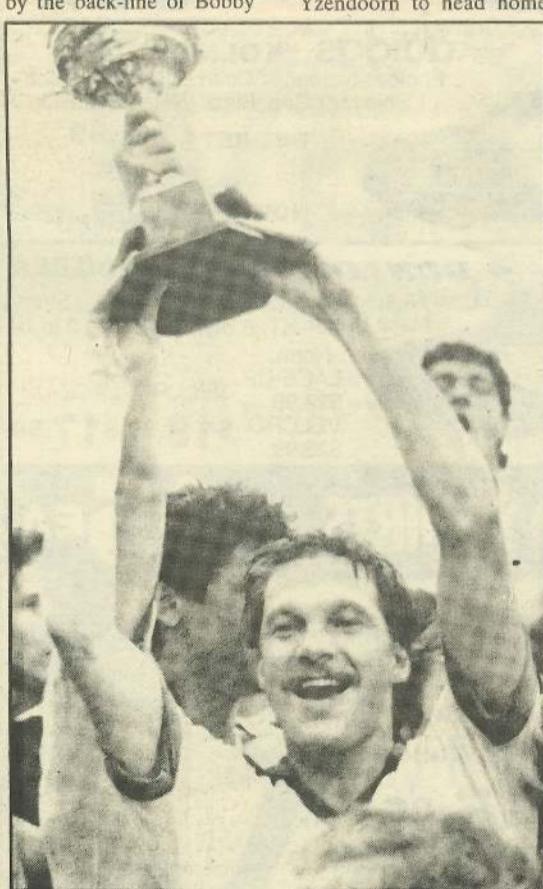
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumets, Russell, Davidson, Blair, Yzendoorn, Halford, Postecoglou, Crino, Egan, Brown, Murphy.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Rogers, Jennings, Dakos, Coady, Phillips, Raskopoulos, Patikas (Kalantzis 33), Soper, Katholos, Koussas (Theodorakopoulos 65).

REFEREE: D. Rennie. **CROWD:** (about) 10,000.



□ THE Melbourne Age photo showing Charlie Egan (No 9) scoring South's first goal. Ken Murphy is on the goal-line between Olympic's Gary Phillips (No 6) and Tony Dakos, with keeper Gary Meier on the ground.



□ JOHN YZENDOORN holds aloft the trophy South Melbourne won as NSL champions.

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CHIT CHAT



SYDNEY referee Doug Rennie decided to hang up his whistle after handling the controversial Olympic Park interstate grand final.

Doug, one of the nice guys of Soccer, has reached retirement age.

ASW wishes him a happy retirement, although Doug told us he hopes to stay in the game in some capacity.

Sydney Olympic fans wish Rennie had retired one match earlier!

City after he had beaten keeper Tony Pezzano.

However, Hunter recalled the goal attempt that brought him the most agony, against Brisbane Lions: "The goalkeeper fell backwards and ended up sitting on the ball!" he said.

■ ■ ■

IT could be said that Tommy Docherty was not a huge success as a coach in Australian Soccer.

Indeed, The Doc had a pretty rough ride from the fans before he returned to England.

Now, however, Docherty's old mate Johnny Thomson has been reminding a few people that The Doc coached the two teams everyone is talking about right now — Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne.

Even some of his critics grudgingly admit Docherty must have played some part in the 1984 successes of Olympic and South.



ROY COTTON, the Penrith City striker, recently received a top honour — but not on the Soccer field.

Employed by Peter Warren Ford of Liverpool, Cotton was named as the top fleet salesman for Ford.

Cotton is proud of his achievement, but says it took a lot of time and hard work.

HOW much longer must Sydney wait to get its own Soccer stadium?

The pathetic attempts to make the St George Stadium a suitable venue for grand finals in front of large crowds raises the question once again.

The problem was highlighted when we compared St George with Olympic Park, Melbourne during the top five series.

The NSW State Government has been saying for years that it cannot afford to build a multi-million dollar stadium for Soccer.

But is it necessary to spend all that money?

Why not convert an existing ground comparatively cheaply and make it Sydney's Soccer home?

Renato Orsatti, the Leichhardt Apia director, says he knows the ideal place — Henson Park.

The ground is no longer needed by Rugby League.

It is near the centre of Sydney. It could be converted into a rectangular ground with new seating and stands erected, with a capacity of around 30,000.

There is plenty of room — the ground being in a natural bowl which could hold 50,000 spectators.

How about it Mr Mike Cleary? You could do a great job for Soccer at Henson Park ... and without spending millions.

■ ■ ■

BLACKTOWN CITY's popular midfielder Stuart Selvage is enjoying the break from Soccer.

Last week he left for the Gold Coast on a supposed business trip.

"It's great to get away but it's strictly a business trip," Selvage remarked.

RECENT stories about Gary Phillips' surfing ability might result in a few challenges from other players.

It's no secret that Sydney Croatia's Graham Arnold and ASW writer and St George's Robbie Slater are keen surfers.

Wouldn't it be different if we had a pre-season surfing tournament between the three instead of a pre-season Soccer tournament?

■ ■ ■

A COUPLE of weeks ago ASW brought you news of former Socceroo Gary Marocchi in Western Australia.

However, since then Marocchi has been sacked from his position as captain-coach of the Azurri club!

■ ■ ■

ONE-TIME Socceroo and dashing player John Doyle sometimes wonders whether he and Soccer are actually compatible, but he always has his shoulder to the wheel in improving the general standard of play.

John this year coached both the champion St George ladies team and State League Second Division club Belmore-Canterbury. In addition he is in charge of Star Soccer Camps.

Teaching comes easy to John, as he is mathematics master at Bankstown High School.



□ GRAHAM ARNOLD (left) in action against Dave McIntosh.

STEVE BLAIR's omission from the Australian touring squad was a blow to the big South Melbourne centre-back.

"It was pretty disappointing," said the 1981 Young Socceroo star who played in the Australian "B" team in this year's World Soccer Series.

Blair was his unable to get time off work to make the world tour because he has recently been promoted to manager with the RACV. However, he is confident he will be available next year.



PARRAMATTA MELITA goalkeeper Alex McPherson, at 26, has decided to give the game away for a year.

The Melita custodian will be leaving for an extended holiday in Europe with his wife in mid-season, so he informed the club several months ago that he will not be available in 1985.

"I didn't think it was right to leave the team midway through the season, so I decided not to play at all next year," he explained.

McPherson came to Australia in 1979 from Liverpool in England, and after a year in Melbourne, joined Canterbury-Marrickville in the NSW State League.

Melita signed McPherson in 1982 to replace Terry Greedy, who had moved to St George.

□ ALEX MCPHERSON (left) is restrained by referee Gary Power against Penrith City in Melita's final League match — probably McPherson's last game for Melita.



WEST ADELAIDE may have problems with their plans to sign new players for 1985.

For starters the smooth return of Robbie Dunn to Adelaide from Preston looks like being squashed by the Victorians, who point out the centre-back has two more years on his contract.

West were confident they could meet any price asked by Preston, but it now appears the Melbourne club doesn't want to sell.

TWICE recently it has been stated that Peter McCann held the position of NSW Soccer Federation president for a record number of years.

McCann, chairman of the Australian World Cup Committee, does not hold the record, however.

Karel Rodny, the immediate past president of NSW Soccer, informed us: "I was president for seven years and I am sure you'll find this is a longer period than anyone else held the job."

IT wasn't surprising to hear that a couple of Sydney Olympic players celebrated late into the night after their Grand Final success over Sydney City.

And the best way they found to celebrate was by smashing a few dozen plates at the Mykinos night-spot!

Don't be alarmed, as this is an ancient Greek custom.

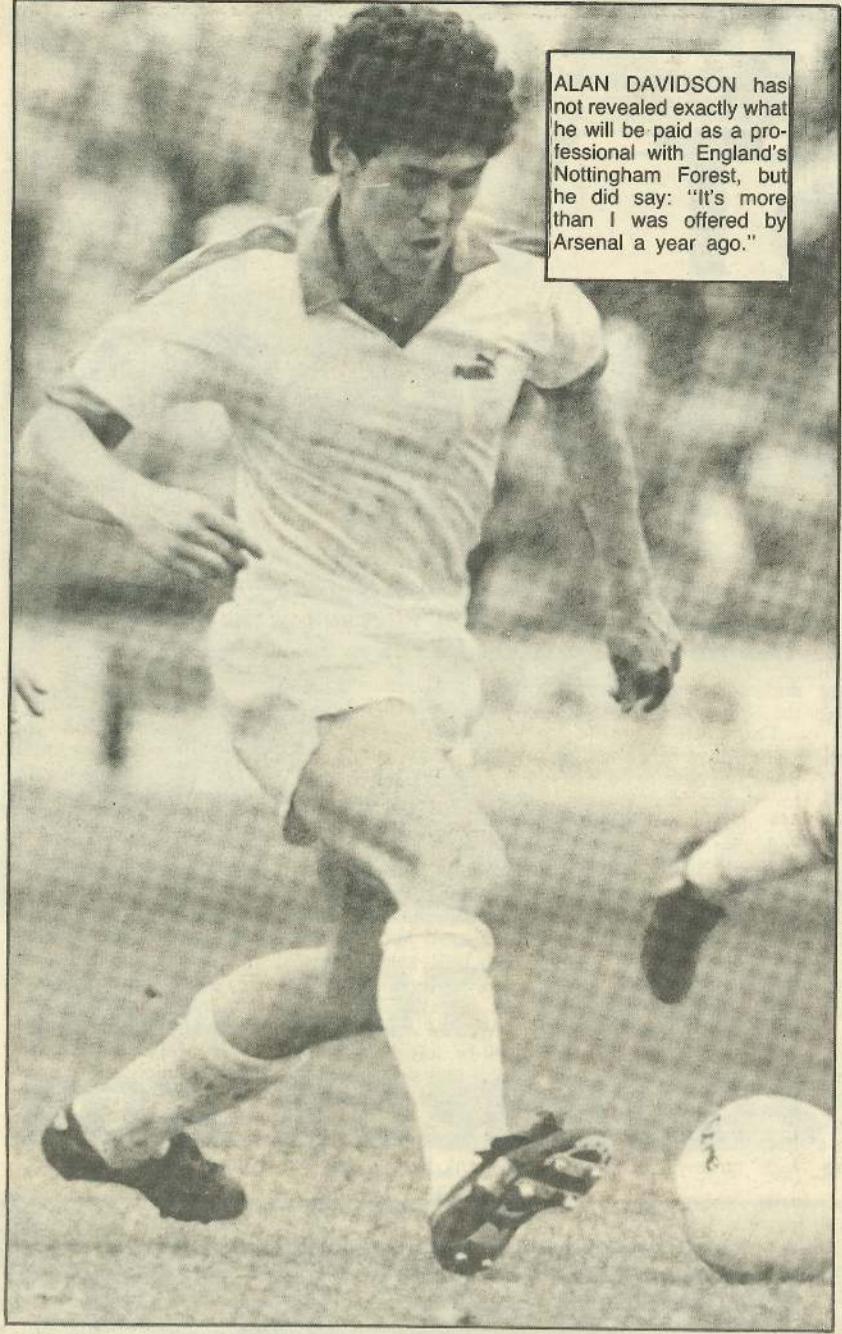
But one wonders what the final bill was for the smashed plates?

REMEMBER Peter Hensman, the ex-Sydney Olympic and Sydney Croatia winger?

At the end of last year's NSW State League season, Hensman decided to retire.

He still has a soft spot for the round-ball code, but not the conventional outdoor game.

Hensman is a keen Indoor Soccer player at ex-World Cup star Ray Richards' complex in Auburn.



LEE STERREY faced a difficult challenge at Sydney Croatia this season, but he came through with flying colours.

The 23-year-old central defender was dropped when Mick Jones took over as coach, but he fought his way back into the team to be one of the most consistent players over the season.

A product of the Bankstown district, Sterrey moved up from local amateur ranks to State League with Croatia a few years ago.

He said that with all the coaching changes at Croatia, the players performed very creditably to finish sixth.

"Each coach had different ideas and tactics, making our job so much harder," Sterrey said.

"I've worked with John Yzendoorn and Charlie Yankos, and Yzendoorn is years ahead of Yankos as a sweeper."

That quote comes from Len McKendry, who made his feelings known as to who should be sweeper for Australia.

LEN MCKENDRY, coach of South Melbourne, says a team needs a lot of courage to fight back from being behind.

He should know — his team has done it three times in succession during the top five play-off series.

When South beat Olympic 2-1 in Melbourne after trailing 1-0, McKendry said: "This proves the team has got character."



□ STEVE McDONALD (left) chases Robbie Slater.

STEVE McDONALD thought his season had finished until he received a call from the Parramatta Melita club.

A gritty defender, McDonald was eligible to play in the Youth team's final against South Melbourne last weekend.

However, he had to decline because he had planned a relaxing holiday on the NSW North Coast.

ALAN DAVIDSON has not revealed exactly what he will be paid as a professional with England's Nottingham Forest, but he did say: "It's more than I was offered by Arsenal a year ago."

FORMER Socceroo Gary Byrne thought he'd been called up for the world tour when he received a phone call from the Australian Soccer Federation recently.

However, Byrne was informed that his ASF suitcase from a previous tour had been found.

The Blacktown City midfielder had thrown the suitcase away two days earlier!

THE Blacktown City Demonettes are looking for new recruits.

Anyone interested in joining the cheer squad, who perform dance routines at the Demons' home games, can phone the Blacktown City club on 624 3344.

IF there are any players forced to withdraw from the Socceroo world tour squad, there could be problems finding Rod Brown, who has been on standby for the tour.

Brown is off to the NSW North Coast for a well-earned holiday.

BIG rumour going round St George Stadium after the second leg of the South Melbourne - Sydney Olympic play-off was that Olympic midfielder Peter Katholos had decided to sign for South Melbourne.

ASW checked out the story and found it was not on.

"Definitely not," said South coach Len McKendry. "We are not buying Katholos."

McKendry added the information that: "We are also supposed to be signing George Christopoulos — but we haven't got any money!"

We thought South Melbourne were Soccer's millionaire club. That's probably a title they'd like to lose.

ONE of the most pleasing things about the NSW Player of the Year award night was the enthusiasm shown by Kim Ward representing sponsors Radio Rentals.

Kim went out of his way to thank the Australian Soccer Press Association for allowing his company to become involved.

We have a hunch Radio Rentals will be part of the ASPA presentations in NSW for quite some time.

IN both legs of the interstate grand final, classic exhibitions of how to play central defence were provided by Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne.

For the Victorians, Steve Blair and John Yzendoorn were magnificent and for Olympic, Mike Coady and Tony Dakos were every bit as good.

What a pity not one of the four will be touring with the Socceroos.

Olympic coach Manfred Schaefer also had a word about Socceroo selection when he said: "In the grand finals, our Gary Phillips played all over Ken Murphy but Murphy is on the tour and Gary isn't."



SYDNEY OLYMPIC's rejected Socceroo Peter Katholos certainly enjoyed beating Sydney City in the Australian Conference Grand Final.

In fact, "Kat" was the only player to do a full lap of honour along with about 4,000 hysterical Olympic supporters.

"I've waited five years to win the championship," a relieved 'Katholos said after the game.

ONE way footballers wind down in the off-season is by playing Indoor Cricket. Marconi's first grade team has formed a side which recently started out in the Bankstown area.

They must be short of fast bowlers, because they've enlisted the services of Sydney Olympic's Gary Phillips.

EDDIE THOMSON could be missing for about three weeks during next season's NSL programme.

The Australian Jewish Times reports that Thomson will be invited to coach the Australian Maccabiah side in the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Eddie is keen to go to Israel and, possibly, unearth some Jewish talent for the Sydney City squad.

A couple of top Jewish players would help boost Slickers poor match crowds.

FORMER Newcastle coach Ken Kaiser subscribes to a theory that you get what you deserve in sport.

And he said Ralph Maier's selection in the Australian Under 23 team which competed in the Merlion Cup is just reward for the player's sacrifices.

"Ralph has stuck at it and he works hard," Kaiser said. "He'll never let anyone down."

The Rosebud full-back, who was in the Australian Youth team last year, plans to enrol as a physical education student at Newcastle University after working as a painter this year.

Maier would like to stay with the Newcastle club next season, but says: "I can't see myself playing for hardly anything again."

BLACKTOWN CITY announced their Player of the Year at the club's annual ball on Saturday night.

The award went to Chris Dunleavy, who joined Blacktown from Wollongong for a transfer fee of \$6,000.

"I've enjoyed my first year with the club, and I certainly hope it isn't going to be my last," said Dunleavy, an experienced sweeper.

The Demons' Most Promising Player award went to Martin Bourke, a contender for a midfield place in next year's Australian Youth squad.

Blacktown City finished the season by making the semi-finals, a big achievement for a team considered relegation candidates.

But as goalkeeper Barry Hoare said: "Rale Rasic said at the beginning of the year that the candidates for relegation were Penrith, St George and Blacktown, with Blacktown as his favourites. We're glad to have proved him wrong."



BLACKTOWN DEMONS captain Cliff Pointer is certain to saddle up with the club for the seventh year in 1985.

English-born, he played for Bromley in the Isthmian league before coming on to Sydney, where he first had four seasons with Manly Warringah.

Cliff had every reason to be proud of Blacktown reaching the Australian Conference semi-finals in the club's first year back in top company.

He is pictured challenging Sydney City striker John Kosmina.

'MY HARDEST YEAR' - THOMSON



EDDIE THOMSON signals from the bench during a Sydney City match in 1984.

CANBERRA ARROWS DISAPPOINT FANS

BY DAVID JACK

IT was a curiously mixed-up year for Canberra Arrows. The club's ninth placing in the Australian Conference must have disappointed many people who expected something better.

In the early part of the season, coach Doug Collins realised he had a big defensive problem and he attempted to remedy this by going to Newcastle to sign centre-half Peter Burke.

But almost before Burke had settled in, he had the misfortune to break a leg, putting him out of the game for the rest of the season.

So Canberra struggled, losing an alarming succession of matches, until the return from Greece of George Christopoulos brought a dramatic recovery.

Arrows then won match after match and, indeed, looked a reasonable bet for the top five play-offs.

A couple of bad results towards the end of the NSL campaign ended all such lofty ambitions.

Young players like Anthony Franken, John Mihailidis, Roy Jones and Frank Farina adapted well to the step-up from youth football but the loss of Farina to Sydney City will rob Arrows' front-line of some of its rich potential.

But Farina was not a regular first team player in the latter part of the year and it could be that his transfer to the big city will not be the body blow some folk believe.

Attendances this season at the Bruce Stadium were hardly adequate although,

in what proved a terrible year for crowds, this was a malady suffered by many clubs.

Canberra, in mid-season, fell out with one of the ACT's leading media men, attempting to bar him from the ground. The affair made headlines in many papers. In the end, Canberra Arrows officials lost a battle they should never have initiated.

For everyone's sake, let us hope the club and the media in 1985 can let bygones be bygones and resume their previously excellent relationship.

And what does 1985 hold for Canberra?

It will be interesting to see what effect the presence of neighbours Inter-Monaro in the National League will have on Arrows.

Certainly the rivalry will do neither club any harm but it is in the field of player-scouting and recruitment that there could be problems.

For the past seven years, the whole area has been an Arrows monopoly at NSL level. Now, however, young players wishing to move up to the National League will have the choice of two teams.

Also, the many talented youngsters graduating from the Australian Institute of Sport will not necessarily drop into Canberra Arrows' lap.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY CITY, the champions of the Australian Conference this year, will prove to be an even bigger threat in the NSL next year if the words of their crack coach Eddie Thomson have any credence.

"I am confident about 1985, more so than I was for 1984," said Eddie.

Thomson was a little doubtful at the start of 1984 as he parted with six first team players and embarked on an exercise of "recycling" Sydney City.

Midfielder Ian Souness retired due to a recurring back injury, full-backs Kevin Mullen and Ian Bruce moved on, and Kenny Boden and Nelio Borges joined Sydney Croatia.

Thomson began to bring into the first team names such as Jean-Paul de Marigny, Ean Rodrigues, Grant Lee, Graeme Fletcher... drastically re-

ducing the average age of the Sydney City team.

Thomson lamented: "The days are coming when you have to be ready to replace the Watsons, O'Connors and Barnes, and that can't be done overnight. How can you easily replace big names like these?

"At the start of 1984, I had hoped that we would

finish in the top five, taking

into consideration the new

blood, and allowing for a

"digestive" period by the

team as a whole to settle

in."

"I knew it would be my

hardest year with such a

high turnover of playing

staff, and it would be a really tough challenge.

"We did our best and thankfully ended up winning the championship."

Since taking over Sydney City in 1980, the 37-year-old Thomson has won the championship four times in five years, finishing runners-up in 1983 to St George.

So 1984 saw Thomson again deliver excellent results, but what about 1985?

"Well for starters, I think I will be staying at Sydney City if they want me," the ever-humble Thomson remarked.

"He will also make Sydney City much more exciting and entertaining to watch and will fit into the team like a glove," the young master stated.

cites me as a player. He has class, pace, skills, great balance and you must admit he is beautiful to watch," Thomson said.

But Thomson has not finished his buying. In the next week or two, he is going to buy a class midfielder for 1985.

"The player I have in mind is all class. He is not a runner. I have runners, but he is capable of doing something different and has a style of his own.

"He will also make Sydney City much more exciting and entertaining to watch and will fit into the team like a glove," the young master stated.



ST GEORGE 1984: BACK ROW: John O'Shea, Mark Barton, Terry Greedy, Robbie Slater, Andy Koczka, Dez Marton.

FRONT ROW: David Skeen, Peter Stone, Peter Petkovski, Mike O'Shea, Pedro Ricoy.

SAINTS' DREADFUL YEAR

JUDGED on their own very high standards, St George had a dreadful 1984 season in the National League.

Indeed, they were lucky not to be relegated to the State League, an unthinkable state of affairs for a team which, just a year earlier, had carried off the NSL championship.

Saints finished the campaign with 25 points, only one better than Parramatta Melita who suffered the drop to State League. And had it not been for a great win — totally against the form book — against Sydney City, Saints would have gone down.

There is no doubt that Frank Arok, Saints coach, went into 1984 short of good, experienced, players. Had his team remained injury-free, that handicap would have been overcome and St George would have had a reasonable year.

But when key players like David Skeen, Dez Marton, the O'Shea boys, David Ratcliffe and Terry Greedy had to miss several matches, St George were forced to throw immature youngsters into first team duty.

The boys did their best but would have benefited from another year at youth level before taking the big step up to NSL. There is a vast gulf between the two competitions.

Andy Koczka did well enough, whether playing in defence or attack, but few of the other young Saints players will look back on the year with relish.

It was also a year in which good players like Peter Stone and Robbie Slater disappointed their admirers.

Brothers, Mike and John, can also look forward to better times. We may anticipate the usual solid consistency from men like Terry Greedy and Mark Barton.

But what does the future hold for Dez Marton? There is no better goalscorer forward in the National League than Dez but he cannot be expected to keep going forever. Marton is past the age when many players are sitting back and enjoying well-earned retirement.

Perhaps St George's success hopes will depend, to a large extent, on the form of Slater. On his day, the redhead can be devastating and his failure to crack goals regularly in 1984 was, surely, only a temporary lapse.

BRISBANE CITY SOCCER CLUB

call for applications for the 1985 season NSL coaching position

ALL APPLICATIONS TO BE IN WRITING TO:

The Secretary,
Brisbane City Soccer Club,
PO BOX 409,
ALDERLEY, 4051.



BY DAVID JACK

Looking at the statistics, it is surprising to note that St George conceded 41 goals. Surprising — because coach Arok was brutally criticised in 1983 for the ultra-defensive tactics he devised for Australia in three matches against a visiting English international side.

When we consider that only the miserable Wollongong, disorganised Newcastle and Blacktown Demons conceded more goals this year, the St George defence was surprisingly vulnerable.

It would be nice to say all will be well for St George in 1985 but that might be wishful thinking.

Robbie O'Shea's return will be a plus and his two



□ ROD BROWN (right) shields the ball from Bruno Vidale.

ALL NOT ROSY FOR ROSEBUDS

BY NEIL JAMESON

WITH two major trophies in the showcase and the news that Willie Gallagher will coach the first team next season, things might appear "rosy" for Newcastle Rosebud United.

However, the cash problem that haunts most NSL outfits is continuing to hamper Newcastle's chances to build a powerful challenge.

With limited resources and, after emerging from the wreck of Newcastle KB United, Rosebud picked off the NSL Cup and NSL Youth Cup double to finish the season in style.

Unhappily, that run of success didn't help attract enough paying fans to significantly boost the club's cash flow and the players finished the season knowing they had often appeared for match payments that would embarrass the most humble of State League clubs.

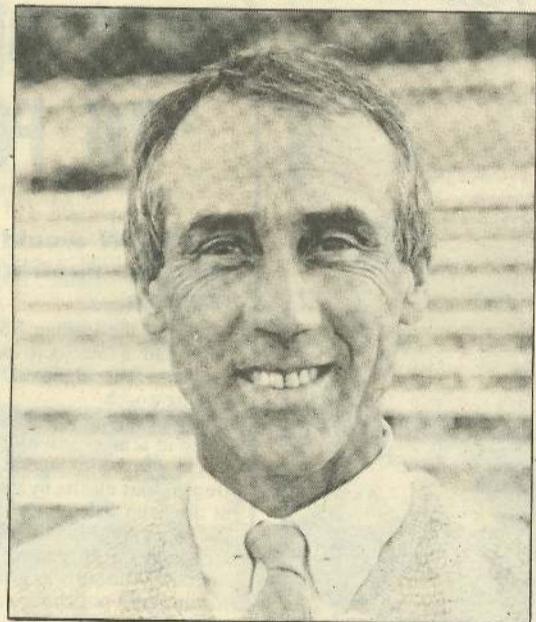
When the club played its final NSL match doubts still lingered whether KB United's liquidator would resolve the question of player transfers to Rosebud United.

The problem left question marks about the club's ability to retain the services of such talented players as Joe Senakski, the Rosebud club captain, who produced what was probably his finest NSL season since 1977.

There has been some optimism among Newcastle fans that Derek Todd, who was such a success as striker in his first NSL season, might return from England where he was trialling with a league club.

Gallagher, the eternal optimist, said that considering the club's resources, he was constantly amazed by the talent the Newcastle region produced.

"We've relied on young players to take on a lot of responsibility and every one of them has performed right up to expectation," Gallagher said. "I don't know what will happen next season, but so far the players have made an outstanding success of the project."



□ WILLIE GALLAGHER: optimist.

1984 NSL CROWDS

READER Stan Cummins, of Springvale, Victoria, has recorded all the crowd figures in National Soccer League matches this year.

The following statistics make interesting reading, and ASW thanks Stan for his work in compiling these tables.

		AVERAGE HOME ATTENDANCE	TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR 1984	NUMBER OF HOME GAMES
1	SOUTH MELBOURNE	5,233	78,500	15
2	SYDNEY OLYMPIC	3,887	58,307	15
3	HEIDELBERG UNITED	3,782	52,950	14
4	SYDNEY CROATIA	3,413	47,783	14
5	PRESTON	3,367	50,500	15
6	MELBOURNE CROATIA	3,053	42,739	14
7	BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS	3,014	42,199	14
8	FOOTSCRAY	2,179	30,500	14
9	PARRA MELITA	2,137	32,052	15
10	SUNSHINE G.C.	2,036	28,500	14
11	WEST ADELAIDE	2,025	30,377	15
12	ST. GEORGE	2,011	28,153	14
13	ADELAIDE CITY	1,885	26,388	14
14	LEICHARDT	1,799	23,386	13
15	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUDS	1,765	24,710	14
16	MARCONI	1,675	25,129	15
17	GREEN GULLY	1,500	19,500	13
18	BRISBANE CITY	1,415	18,393	13
19	CANBERRA ARROWS	1,386	19,399	14
20	BLACKTOWN CITY	1,232	17,244	14
21	PENRITH CITY	1,227	15,949	13
22	WOLLONGONG CITY	1,170	15,210	13
23	SYDNEY CITY	1,129	14,677	13
24	BRISBANE LIONS	857	11,995	14

MARCONI'S IMPROVERS

MARCONI'S one outstanding performance for the season was to develop a group of players which includes some of the finest young exponents of the game in Australia today.

So far as the Australian Conference table was concerned, running third with the edge on Leichhardt was a bonus, although they appeared certain of a final five place for most of the year.

The club picked up Craig Mason, John Spanos and David Lowe as well as able young full-back Paul Carter, but the loss of Tom Sermanni to Canberra left the midfield below expectations.

Spanos and Carter took time to settle in and, as with other leading clubs, the over-long World Series took the sting out of some of the players.

Rod Brown excelled by notching 14 NSL goals. To collect third place at 20 years of age on the Australia-wide scoring list is a feather in his cap.

He has strength, speed and amazing quickness on the turn, as well as being strong in the air and accurate with his shot.

Tom McCulloch did not always excel, but towards the end of the season he demonstrated his real potential. He is the only Marconi player in the forthcoming overseas tour.

Paul Carter has attributes that should take him a long way, but both Rene Licata and Joe Rizzotto lost a deal of sting due to injuries.

Coach Les Scheinflug's unenviable job is to try and tone down Rizzotto's fiery temper without limiting his effectiveness — a tall order indeed.

Skipper Tony Henderson reached his peak with the Australian B team in the international matches.

Ricky Budini was loaned to Avala to gain experience and he replied by winning the Rothmans Medal.

Mark Jankovics slotted

when he did he showed skills rarely revealed in this country.

The big question is whether he will develop more as a midfielder in the Joe Watson or Roberto Vieri mould, rather than as a forward where he will never be a bullocking performer in the John Kosmina or Graham Arnold style.

Generally speaking the

club needs a few worthwhile reinforcements to bring back the crowds with the extra sparkle that is needed.

Certainly they should think twice before disposing of a player of the Steve Winn calibre in future. They needed a defender, but Winn was good enough to lead Heidelberg's scoring with 11 goals.

NO HONOURS — BUT HONOUR IN 1984 FOR LEICHARDT

THE 1984 season was one which the Apia Leichhardt club can look back on with pride and satisfaction on a job well done.

BY TOM ANDERSON

Here is a dedicated professional who is probably the most under-rated coach in the NSL.

They achieved this with limited playing resources and probably the smallest first team squad in the competition.

As usual, the administration of the club was excellent and the "new" football set-up worked better than was even anticipated to set a vogue for the future.

Club coach Fil Bottalico went about his duties with the minimum of fuss and the maximum of effort and worked hard for the success that came his way.

Young Gray will be off

around the world with the Socceroos next month in an honour well deserved.

Newcomer Kerry Caban also had a satisfactory first season in the big time and will improve next season.

Mark Pullen, Mark Brown, Tony Morsello also had a good year and there are a number of local



□ MARK PULLEN youngsters on the threshold of NSL status.

The only black spot on the Leichhardt 1984 calendar was their decision to play at Henson Park.

This windy barren waste is not suitable for top Soccer and definitely not the answer for Apia.

In fact I would go as far as to state that had Apia played at their true home at Lambert Park in 1984, they would have gone close to winning the competition.

But this was not to be.

NUMBER OF TIMES FEATURED ON "MATCH OF THE DAY"

12	SYDNEY OLYMPIC	BLACKTOWN CITY,
11	SOUTH MELBOURNE,	ST GEORGE,
	MELBOURNE CROATIA	CANBERRA
10	PRESTON	FOOTSCRAY
9	SYDNEY CITY	2— SUNSHINE G.C.
8	HEIDELBERG	1— WEST ADELAIDE,
7	LEICHARDT	BRISBANE LIONS,
6	MARCONI	PENRITH CITY
5	BRUNSWICK,	0— BRISBANE CITY,
4	PARRA MELITA	ADELAIDE CITY,
	4— SYDNEY CROATIA,	WOLLONGONG,
	GREEN GULLY,	NEWCASTLE



TOP 5 CROWD ATTENDANCES

1.	BRUNSWICK v SOUTH MELBOURNE	12,000 (Olympic Park)
2.	SOUTH MELBOURNE v HEIDELBERG	11,000 (Middle Park)
3.	SOUTH MELBOURNE v PRESTON	10,000 (Middle Park)
4.	SOUTH MELBOURNE v HEIDELBERG	10,000 (Middle Park)
5.	HEIDELBERG v BRUNSWICK	9,000 (Olympic Village)

BOTTOM 5 CROWD ATTENDANCES

1.	WOLLONGONG v CANBERRA	150 (Dapto Showground)
2.	PENRITH v BRISBANE CITY	215 (Cook Park)
3.	PENRITH v BRISBANE CITY	250 (Cook Park)
4.	SYDNEY CITY v NEWCASTLE	300 (St George Stadium)
5.	BRISBANE LIONS v BLACKTOWN	400 (Richlands)



□ HOWARD TREDINNICK, the Melita full-back who captained the Australian Under 23 team in the Merlion Cup tournament, is tackled by St George's Mark Barton.

MELITA'S DESPAIR

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

AFTER such a tremendous start, Parramatta Melita faded into oblivion and were relegated back to the NSW State League — the competition they won last year.

What's even more surprising is that the Eagles are still going ahead with plans to build a new grandstand which will make Melita Stadium the Soccer showpiece of the western suburbs.

After their successful 1983 campaign, Melita looked like continuing their successful run — particularly after the first 10 rounds of this year's NSL season.

No-one would have believed that Melita would be on top of the Australian Conference after 10 games, but it became apparent in the following weeks that a looming injury count would take its toll.

Melita's biggest problem fell in the goalscoring department.

They had a fine defen-

sive combination but the lack of a match-winning striker proved too big a problem.

A knee injury to young striker Wayne Farnsworth earlier in the year proved to be a huge loss.

"He was one of our biggest losses," Melita coach Raul Blanco said.

"Last year he scored over 30 goals. He was sorely missed — a team always misses regular goalscorers."

With five rounds left in the competition, Melita looked like sealing a spot in the semi-final play-offs but to their disappointment, they failed to clinch victory in their remaining games.

Ironically, their NSL destiny revolved around their last game of the competition.

A win or draw against fellow NSL newcomers Penrith City would have kept them in the top grade next year, but a 2-0 loss ended their high hopes and dreams of success in the National League.

During the ensuing off-season, Melita may face a massive exodus of players.

Surely young players like John Gregson, Howard Tredinnick, Chris Hummel and Paul Andricopoulos will prefer to play at the highest level of Soccer.

However, Melita have the capacity to overcome 1984's setbacks, and it wouldn't surprise if the Eagles win the NSW State League competition next year and climb back into the NSL in 1986.

□ MARTYN ROGERS faces an opponent, with Alex Lambropoulos in support.

OLYMPIC BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

DESPITE losing the National Grand Final to South Melbourne, 1984 will be remembered as Sydney Olympic's most successful season to date.

Over the years the Greek-supported club has failed to produce the goods after promising a great deal but this year it was a different story.

The foundations were laid when they won the National Cup Final — their first major title — against Heidelberg last season.

Olympic are one of Australia's most attractive attacking sides. During this season, particularly the second round, they dazzled opposing sides with their spectacular and crisp style of the play.

In fact, Olympic finished second in the goalscoring tally (both conferences) with 61 goals to their credit. Olympic look set to enjoy a successful period in coming years. This year's first grade side is one of the youngest in the league.

Striker Chris Kalantzis is destined for a big future and is considered a certainty for Australia's next youth campaign. Kalantzis, 17, scored eight goals after spending the first 12 rounds in the youth team.

Nick Theodorakopoulos, last year's leading NSW State League goalscorer, enjoyed a successful introduction to first-team football netting nine goals as did former Australian Youth Socceroo Mark Koussas.

Considered to be a player of mixed complexions, Marshal Soper seemed to be plagued by niggling injuries throughout the year.

The 24 year-old striker should play an important role for Australia in their World Cup qualifying rounds next year.

Rated by many as Australia's most explosive player, Jim Patikas maintained his fine form from last year and will play a big part for Olympic next season.

Midfielder Gary Philips,

21, finished the season on a high note starring for Olympic in the semi-final series.

Although hampered by a serious ankle injury midway through the competition, Tony Dakos recovered and looks certain to hold his position for many seasons to come.

Promising local young defender Alex Lambropoulos will also figure strongly in Australia's next youth challenge.

No-one can deny the performances of the Olympic midfield. Captain Peter Raskopoulos was rewarded for his efforts, winning the NSW Player of the Year Award. . . a Hi-Fi stereo from Radio Rentals.

Peter Katholos, despite his early season problems, bounced back and topped the goalscoring tally with 13 to his credit.

Although Olympic are a gifted attacking side, one of the biggest reasons for their success was the defensive combination of



□ JIM PATIKAS

goalkeeper Gary Meier, right-back Martyn Rogers, stopper Mike Coady, Socceroo left-back Graham Jennings and Dakos.

In fact, Olympic conceded only 27 goals in 28 games. Only South Melbourne and Sydney City have a better defensive record.

One of the biggest disappointments was the demise of young attacker Terry Patalis. Last year he was the hero for Olympic in their NSL Cup win scoring both of his team's goals but his first team appearances this season were limited.

PRESTON WANT TO FORGET

BY DAVID BECK

PRESTON would like to forget this year's competition for a multitude of reasons.

One of the leading NSL clubs of Victoria, Preston have had a mediocre season, marred with internal problems that culminated with the sacking of their long-serving coach.

The problems arose early in the piece when Preston failed to achieve results and Peter Ollerton became the target of the exasperated Preston supporters. The tremendous efforts by the committee to keep Ollerton at the helm failed after the team had slipped down on the championship table and pressure from the supporters kept on increasing.

Frank Allistair was given charge of the team but the fortunes did not change dramatically in the remainder of the season.

A lot of key players did not pick up in the second part of the season making the recovery of the side very difficult.

Even Preston's recruits Graham Heys, Robert Dunn and Gary Cole, did not produce according to expectations, thus creating the impression that Preston had invested their money unwisely.

The team improved in the closing rounds of the championship and Preston came close to making the top five.

Their fate, however, was decided in the last round of the championship when they drew 0-0 against Brisbane Lions and left the way open for Brunswick Juventus to occupy fifth spot.



WOLLONGONG FACE MORE BAD TIMES

WOLLONGONG CITY have ended a dismal season with no real prospect of improving themselves in 1985, but this time they won't be a "protected species".

The club have been criticised for having finished a long last in the Australian Conference, but weren't relegated because they have development status.

Wollongong have re-signed coach Adrian Alston for another year, but he won't have any real money to strengthen his squad.

"We would dearly love to

be able to give Alston the green light to go on a shopping spree, but we just haven't the finances," club secretary John Vlietstra told ASW.

"We cut our expenditure on players drastically this season and relied a lot on young players coming into the National League."

Alston is hoping the likes

of David Green, Alex Bandalos, Peter Kotamanidis and Scott Dickson, along with Jamie Dummett, will deliver the goods next season.

There are rumblings that

some of the more experienced players in the team

will be moving on if Wollongong doesn't sign some experienced players to

bolster the squad for next year.

BY PHIL MURPHY

It is no secret that two Wollongong stalwarts have applied for player-coach jobs in the last two weeks.

If these particular players move on in addition to a utility player who is likely to

get good money playing Illawarra premier league, Wollongong are in big trouble.

Vlietstra said the recent disastrous rock concert which resulted in a loss to the club of \$10,000 has added to the problems.

"We had been whittling down our overdraft and

if we had made a profit of even \$20,000 from the venture things would have been a lot easier for 1985," he said.

"Now we face an uphill battle but I am confident there is the talent in Illawarra to field a competitive side next season and we will win our share of games".



□ SCOTT DICKSON

CONSOLIDATION FOR PENRITH

BY BRAD EARL

NEW club Penrith City consolidated their position in the National League this year, but financial problems are threatening the club's future.

Players and coaches ceased to be paid in May, although the club has continually assured them that the cash is on the way.

While Penrith officials claim they are not "Robinson Crusoe" amongst NSL teams, the club will not survive with a repeat of this situation in 1985.

The Panthers' final placing in the NSL table of seventh is something coach Willie Wallace and his players can be proud of — particularly when it is considered that Penrith finished ahead of reigning NSL champions St George and State League champions Melita.

Those clubs went into the League with established sides that had achieved success.

Wallace, on the other hand, had to mould a team out of nothing.

He began the season with only two current NSL players, strikers Roy Cotton (from Wollongong) and Ian Hunter (Marconi).

Admittedly Peter Brogan, Mickey Cross and Dave McIntosh had previously played in the top division, but the other members of the team were young players without NSL experience.

To strengthen the midfield, Jeff Ainsworth was added in April, signed from Wollongong.

Ainsworth, McIntosh and striker Paul Daley formed the backbone of the team in the centre of the park.

With the consistency of full-backs Brogan and Cross, they formed one of

the most reliable defences in the NSL in 1984.

The other half of the team — the attacking unit — failed to function nearly as effectively.

Wallace, a brilliant striker in his day, criticised his for-

wards for lack of effort throughout the season.

"We had players who wanted to do their own thing," Wallace said.

"We never had enough heart up-front nor enough ability in the centre of the park."

"In future the club must ensure that any visa players will be here for at least two years," he said.

A HARD YEAR FOR DE BRUIN

BY BRAD EARL

CASEY DE BRUIN, Blacktown City's National League coach, must have gone through several packets of aspirin this year.

Although the team scored a high number of goals with exciting attacking play, they also conceded too many goals.

The Demons didn't lift themselves clear of relegation until the second last round, and rumours were rife that de Bruin's job was on the line.

After a great start to the year, Blacktown's slide began with a bad injury spell in mid-season.

At one stage, de Bruin had only about half-a-dozen players at training.

However, with big signings Gary Byrne and Phil O'Connor in good form at the end of the season, Blacktown jumped from the bottom end of the table to fifth spot.

O'Connor was out for many weeks with a knee injury, while Byrne had a poor season by his standards.

De Bruin said the player the team missed most was Tony Rasmussen, the rugged left-back who had to have another knee operation.

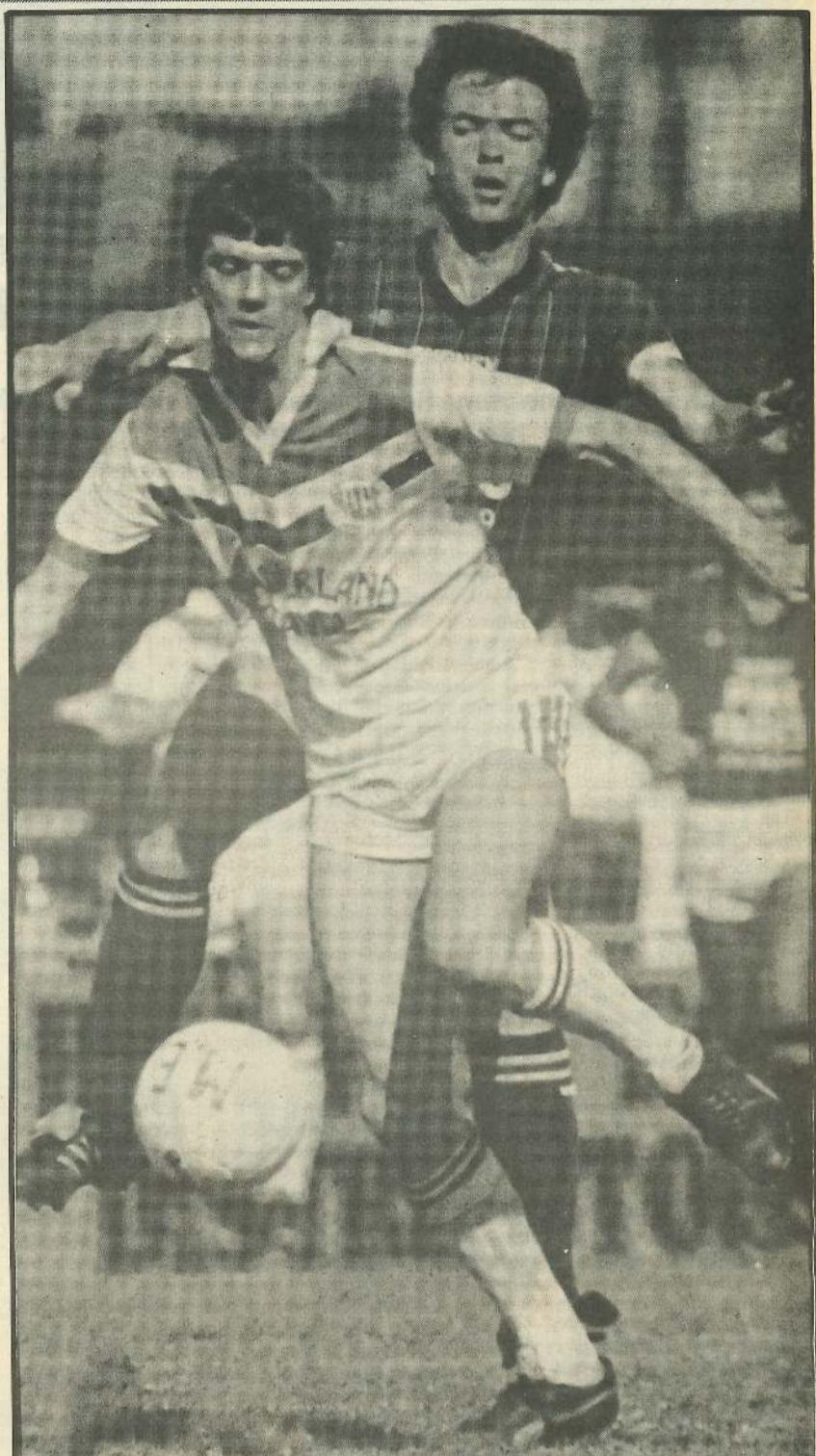
It was thought Rasmussen's career, at 23, may have been ended, but he is confident he can come back next year.

Former Australian Institute of Sport striker Mike McLaughlin showed that he has a big future in the game, while Mike Quarmby and John Larkin confirmed their ability with skilful displays in their limited first team appearances.

Skipper Cliff Pointer and Stuart Selvage put in their usual high level of effort, and these two players are examples of total dedication.

Another player who had a good year for the Demons was English signing Adam Sandy, who is expected to be with the club next year.

With good financial standing through the success of their licensed club, Blacktown City look like realising their potential to become one of the leading Soccer clubs in Australia.



□ PAUL DALEY (rear), one of Penrith's outstanding defenders, challenges Melita's Billy Griffiths.

COACHING MUSICAL CHAIRS AT CROATIA

SIXTH place in the Australian Conference was a sound NSL start for Sydney Croatia, although the public perception is that they endured sheer hell to get there.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

but one who perhaps felt that he had more time to do things than was actually given to him.

Bill Bicanic, Bruno Vidic, Mick Jones and Harry Noon all were involved in the hot seat before Rozic settled in.

Wally Savor had a very rewarding season and ultimately made the Australian squad for the November-December tour.

Missing the Socceroo

cut-off point was centre-forward Graham Arnold. At just 21 and with tremendous strength and shooting power, Arnold is destined to go places in Australian Soccer.

The club signed Steve Meades from Sutherland and also Shane Clinch on loan from the same club. It was purely a development year for the talented Clinch.

Things went on in quite ordinary fashion until vastly experienced Rozic and winger Zeljko Jurin arrived from Yugoslavia.



□ VEDRAN ROZIC (right) in action for Sydney Croatia against Joe Watson of Sydney City. Rozic finished the season as Croatia's coach.

Jurin, on a temporary visa, pepped up the forwards, although in all truth, he did not accomplish quite as much as he initially promised.

Croatia signed former Socceroo goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse from Leic-

hardt for a \$8000 fee and he seemed destined to play in the Youth League team.

Towards the end of his time, Harry Noon introduced Woodhouse at the expense of Steve Watson and he certainly did not look back.

Right at the end Rozic introduced youngster John

Ken Boden missed much of the season with injury, but players such as Lee Sterrey, David Rezo, Drago Tomasich and Brett Woods pulled their weight.

Ugarkovic, who made an impressive debut.

Club officials sum up the season as satisfactory, with the basis laid to secure a few more quality players in order to progress in the 1985 competition.

LEN MCKENDRY IS MASTER COACH

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

LOVE him or loathe him, South Melbourne coach Len McKendry boasts an enviable track record that makes him one of Australia's top coaches.

From his days with the Victorian State squad Len McKendry has built up a tremendous reputation that qualified him for the best jobs in the State of Victoria.

McKendry combined his successful State coaching duties with an excellent club career at Heidelberg United, where he helped the club win the top four Cup, the first major award to be won by a Melbourne club since the inception of the National League.

The year 1984 ended a page in McKendry's glorious Soccer career.

Having taken charge of South Melbourne from Rale Rasic the year before, McKendry slowly laid the foundation of a strong championship side which assumed a leading role and topped the table after 28 gruelling matches.

Determination, organisation, commitment and fighting spirit were the main characteristics of the South Melbourne team, which for the first time in its NSL history developed a killer instinct, as the goal tally suggests.

Adding to this year's success is that South Melbourne conducted their cheapest championship campaign ever, having not spent a penny for players.

Though labelled the millionaires of the National League, the Melbourne side planned the campaign on the strength of the squad available at the beginning of the season.

The only additions to that squad were the promotion of two talented youngsters from the juniors ranks, namely John Kanesoulis, who was named Victorian

U21 player of the year, and Angelo Postecoglou who displayed tremendous talent as a defender.

McKendry also brought back into the side a former South Melbourne NSL player Chris Kalafatidis who filled the void in the left flank of the defence.

But the key player in South Melbourne's successful campaign was defence stalwart John Yzendoorn, the experienced centre half who co-ordinated the defence and produced some brilliant performances throughout the championship.

Equally important was the contribution of Yzendoorn's partner Steve Blair. Blair towered in South's defence, providing the height Yzendoorn, Russell and Kalafatidis lacked.

Victoria's NSL Player of

the Year Oscar Crino excelled in the midfield providing the strength and the skills necessary to dominate this area of the team.

Crino received little help from team-mates Carl Halford, who was injured for a considerable time, and Alan Davidson who apart from being sidelined during long intervals, did not perform at his best in this year's championship.

Very little support was also offered to Crino by Kenny Murphy who suffered from inconsistency in his performances.

A lot can be said however, about the striking duo of Doug Brown and Charlie Egan.

Between them they scored 29 goals, 20 of them coming from the joint top scorer of the League Brown.

Brown had his best season in the National League, consistently puncturing the net of the opposition.

One can safely claim that South Melbourne was the



□ ALAN DAVIDSON: not at his best.

most balanced side in this year's championship. They scored 48 goals and con-

ceded a low 20 goals, which is a record low for the year.

HEIDELBERG FALL AT FINAL FENCE

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

VICTORIA'S most successful NSL club, Heidelberg United, had a disappointing finish to the season, having been defeated in the semi-finals of the NSL top five competition by rivals South Melbourne.

But the Bergers need not be disappointed by their failure to reach the Grand Final, because their record in this year's championship is full of successes which exceeded their expectations.

The man behind this very good campaign for the 1984 championship is Brian Garvey, affectionately known as the quiet

achiever by his committee, players and supporters.

When Garvey accepted the daunting task of preparing the battered Heidelberg side for the demanding season, the critics were quick to predict a gloomy first year for him in Australian Soccer: the main reason being the departure of some long-serving key players, namely Jim Tan-

sey, Jim Campbell and NSL top scorer Gary Cole.

The loss of these established players and the inability of Heidelberg United to replace them with players of equal standard prompted the critics to predict a miserable year.

The methodical Garvey, however, surprised all by producing a respectable side that pleased everyone and produced many brilliant performances that enabled Heidelberg to finish second behind South Melbourne.

Discipline and hard work were the key words at Olympic Village. Garvey taught his players discipline on and off the field while at the same time, he convinced them that they can only achieve results by hard work during matches and at training.

The players responded tremendously and the lowly rated Heidelberg team established themselves as a force from the opening round.

Key player in Heidelberg's campaign was goalkeeper Jeff Olver, arguably the best performer for this season.

His brilliant performances attracted the attention of national coach Frank Arok who invited Olver to join the Socceroo squad.

Olver's performances were matched by those of Charlie Yankos and Don McLeod in the centre of the defence and Ian McKie in the right defence.

The left full-back position caused many headaches to Brian Garvey because after the departure of Jim Tanssey, the coach had not been able to use the same player.

Steve Marley, recruited at the beginning of the season, missed most of the games through injury and later John Gabrelson, his

deputy, was also sidelined by injury.

Heidelberg captain Theo Selemidis had a good season in the midfield with performances followed very closely by young Mike Petersen.

Michael Valentine did not contribute as much as was expected, often displaying uncharacteristic inconsistency and disappointing distribution.

Heidelberg's forward line also experienced a lot of difficulties since Steve Winn did not fire as regularly as expected and Scot Patterson struggled to establish himself in the side.

The inability of the two key forwards to find the net regularly forced Brian Garvey to experiment with Steve Tasios and John Metaxas, two promising youngsters from the junior team.

Even the arrival of Stuart Stevenson did not change the situation very dramatically for Stevenson is a skilful but not always effective forward.

The loss of Paul Tzitzis through injury added to Garvey's problems for Tzitzis figured prominently in his play.

The youngster underwent a medial ligament operation and is a doubtful starter for the 1985 season.

At this stage Brian Garvey himself is doubtful for 1985 — for the Victorian coach of the year has so far received offers from a number of NSL clubs, some of them extremely lucrative.

Club president Sam Goulopoulos has expressed the strong desire to keep Garvey at Heidelberg but only time will tell whether the quiet achiever will renew his contract with the team which gave him his debut in Australian Soccer.

NO SUNSHINE FOR GEORGE CROSS!

BY HARRY HALL

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS had a disastrous first year in the National League and face the grim possibility of returning to the Victorian State League.

Georgie finished last in the National Conference with a frightening record of five wins from 28 championship games.

The failure of the newcomers to impress was attributed to the great influx of new players during this season. In total Sunshine George Cross recruited eight players for the team with few of them established as regulars in the side.

Georgie recruited Ossie Latif, Jovanovic, Faulkner, Toal, Don MacLaren, Costello, DeLuca and in the closing stages of the championship excepted, Ross MacLaren as guest player.

The arrival of the new players did not produce the desired results and under pressure the committee of management dismissed coach Tom Traynor.

Bill Wilkinson took charge of the team and George Cross had some occasional glimpses that revived the hopes of a recovery. The inevitable occurred however, and by the end of the season Sunshine George Cross found themselves anchored at the bottom of the table.

Their failure has not discouraged them from applying for readmission in the National League.

Club president Alf Zhara told ASW "Sunshine George Cross have plans to rebuild the team with the acquisition of three established NSL players who will blend with some of the members of the existing squad and form a strong

WEST HOPE NIGHTMARE IS OVER

BY TOM MCKAIN

THE nightmare that was 1984 for West Adelaide could never happen again — at least that's what the club hopes after finishing in ninth spot in the National Conference to just miss having to apply for readmission to the NSL.

By the middle of the season and towards the end, coach Sam Salabasidis must have been wondering why he returned to Adelaide after a successful coaching stint in Greece, where he took Appolo Kalamarias into First Division.

The club not only signed a Greek coach, but also decided to place the emphasis on players with Greek backgrounds.

Veterans Neil McGachey, Graham Honeyman and Ian McGregor were the only members of the old brigade retained, along with youngster Brenton Hiern and all-rounder Tim Brown.

But West survived, with Salabasidis announcing he would not coach next year unless he got at least four experienced players — and he has handed over his "shopping list".

Financially there were no problems. Midway through the year, the Miss Hellas quest raised \$148,000 cash, then the investment in North Terrace clubrooms paid off when they were sold at a \$350,000 profit.

So looking ahead — provided the players can be bought, West should have a pleasant dream run next year with no hints of another nightmare.



□ JEFF OLVER

LIONS CAN NOW ROAR!

BY BRAD EARL

BRISBANE LIONS' outstanding performance in making the semi-finals in the National Conference gives the club great confidence for the future.

If there was a lesson to come out of 1984, it was that the key to success is in local talent.

After importing Simon Kistemaker from Holland last year — only to see him walk out on the club in January — they advertised nationally for a new coach.

The man they signed was Harry Noon from Sydney State League club Kuring-gai, but he left prior to the World Soccer Series in May.

Lions then promoted Gordon Arrowsmith, who coached their second team, and he did a very creditable job.

Arrowsmith's approach was simple. He brought the best out of his players by boosting their confidence and making them believe in themselves.

The players gave him their full support and there was a great feeling amongst the young team of locals: they appear to have a good future in the game.

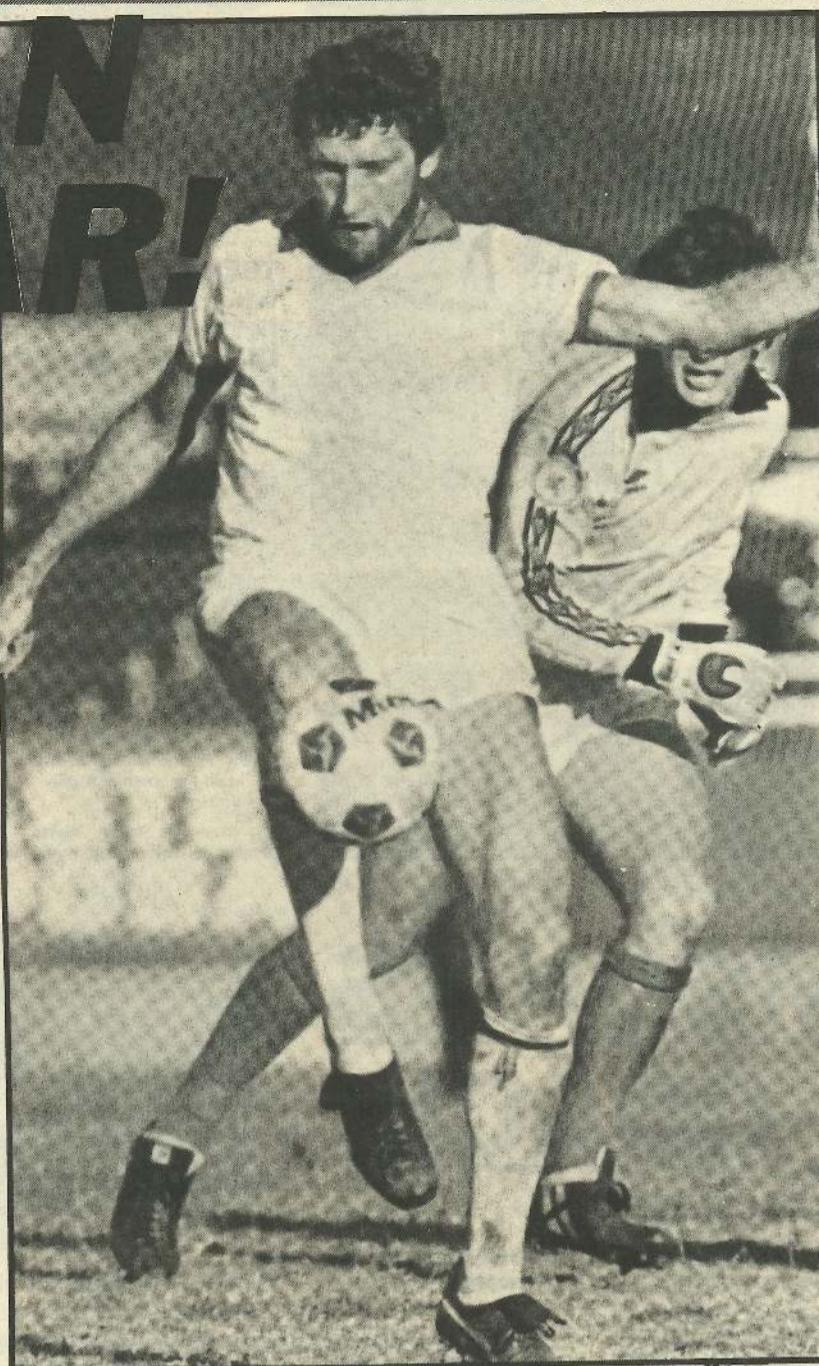
Robbie Farrow impressed as goalkeeper; Steve Jackson was strong at right-back; Roddy Vasquez looked stylish at sweeper; Alan Hunter was effective as a no-nonsense stopper; and Russell Stewart confirmed his rank-

ing as one of Australia's outstanding young midfielders, although he needs to become more consistent.

The team was directed by left-back Alan Niven and midfielder and captain John Stewart, who had a great year.

Up-front, Calvin Daunt and Joe Cairney earned the attention of rival NSL clubs with their grafting determination.

The young Lions should continue to progress in 1985, particularly if Youth international striker Danny Wright overcomes the ankle injury which kept him out for several months.



KREFT'S WOES

BY TOM MCKAIN

ADELAIDE CITY coach Edmund Kreft must have looked at the sky several times this season and said "somebody up there doesn't like me."

In only two games was his shoestring squad beaten by more than a goal, and the number of times his players' shots didn't go in the net when they looked odds-on still has the coach baffled.

To finish eighth was no mean feat in the National Conference, which saw the middle-of-the-table clubs seesawing every week until the final whistle.

City also had to contend with financial problems,

which saw them unable to replace players like Neil Banfield, Glenn Dods, Stuart Blair and Les Carter.

Pat De Vito, Ernie Lunogo and Joe Cecere were youngsters who got a chance which under normal circumstances would never have come their way.

In the end, Cecere made it by holding down a permanent full-back place.

But looking to 1985, the prospects are brighter, particularly on the financial horizon.

FOR PRINTS OF PHOTOS APPEARING IN ASW, PHONE DAVID JELLINGS, 02-33 4904

CHANGE OF MIND FOR CROATIA

BY JOHN FIELD

MELBOURNE CROATIA president Joe Sigur should review his early statement concerning the decision of his club to join the National League.

Early in the season, Sigur commented: "We were silly to join the National League," obviously disappointed with the structure of the national competition.

Since then Melbourne Croatia have overcome their teething problems and established themselves as a force in the National League.

In spite of their good preparation by Terry Hennessey and the recruitment of Jim Campbell from Heidelberg and Peter Lewis from Green Gully, Croatia struggled to keep pace with the other clubs.

Their inability to adjust and achieve results resulted in Terry Hennessey being replaced towards the end of the first half of the season by Tony Vrzina.

The change of coach apparently provided the spark the Croatia machine need to fire and the team got up

BRISBANE CITY HAVE WORRIES

BY BRAD EARL

FOR Brisbane City, 1984 ended up another mediocre season after they were considered top five candidates in mid-season.

City finished virtually playing out the season following the resignation of Joe Gilroy for personal reasons.

Gilroy, who must be one of the most popular coaches in the country, moulded a good side in 1984.

Gilroy must have ruffled a few feathers, however, when he suggested that Australian Youth international Luchi Fabrizio and goalkeeper Kim Wishart should join a southern club in their quest for national honours.

Wishart had a good season and must be one of the

top five keepers in Australia.

There is no better goalkeeper when it comes to dominating the penalty area, although Wishart probably doesn't have the technical skill of some of his rivals.

Former Socceroo Stevie Perry, who looked good at sweeper, and captain Frank Pimblett, who finished up coaching the team after Gilroy's departure, gave their usual 100 percent week in week out.

Mike Milovanovic, the former Canberra and Blacktown City stopper, was a classy addition, and he impressed at right-back.

However, the young players at the club struggled to handle the requirements of National League football.

If Brisbane City loses players for 1985, particularly with Perry and Pimblett considering moving to Sydney, they will have to buy to survive.

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END OF SEASON BLUES!

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

FOOTSCRAY closed the season on a disappointing note, having failed to occupy a respectable placing on the table.

Footscray fell victim to various problems and in spite of the change of coach midway through the season, they failed to live up to the expectations of their loyal supporters.

Footscray tested by ill fate when key players such as Gary McDowell, Brian Tuttill, Jammin Paton and Zdravko Lujic missed a number of games through injuries.

Bobby McLachlan, one of Victoria's successful coaches, left Footscray in the early stages of the championship; the mighty Scot could not instil his confidence into his players and parted company to join Green Gully.

Footscray had some good performances after the arrival of coach Cedo Circovic but not enough to disentangle themselves from the bottom of the table.

Even the invitation to former Red Star forward Dragan Lacmanovic did not help Footscray, for Lacmanovic failed to score goals.

Gary McDowell was Footscray's most outstanding player for the season, followed by keeper Dennis Boland and captain Igor Hazabent.

GREEN GULLY JUST SO—SO

BY PETER GILBERT

GREEN GULLY had an average first year in the National League.

Victoria's most successful State League club made the painstaking transition from the State to the National League without many great losses, except for the coach Jimmy Rooney, midway through the season.

As tradition defines, Rooney became the scapegoat after the team had failed pick up points in the opening half of the season.

Gully missed greatly in the campaign the services of their key defender Peter Lewis, who transferred to Melbourne Croatia and the services of his brother Paul Lewis who had a short stint with South Melbourne.

In the second half of the season Bobby McLachlan, the coach joined them from Footscray but failed to revive the team and recover the lost ground.

Gully finished 10th for the season but should not be discouraged because their first year in the National League was a difficult test and they responded positively, in spite of their low final placing.

SERGIO SURPRISE WINNER

BY DAVID JACK

THERE was an air of stunned disbelief when New South Wales Premier Neville Wran announced the National League Player of the Year at the Apia Club in Sydney on Monday night.

Winner of the handsome Wedgewood Bowl was Sergio Melta, a 25-year-old ladies hairdresser from the Adelaide City club.

Melta was as surprised as everyone else at the big function organised by the Australian Soccer Press Association (ASPA) and the NSL.

"I just came to Sydney for the trip because I was invited by my club. To say I was surprised to hear my name called out is an understatement. I just could not believe it," said the South Australian midfielder.

Although Sergio Melta may be an unknown to many Soccer followers, he is certainly highly rated in Adelaide.

Charlie Caruso of Adelaide City said after the presenta-

tion that if any club was after Melta the bidding would have to start at \$50,000.

Allowing for inflation, this is roughly what David Mitchell cost when he moved from Adelaide City to Sydney City.

Without detracting from Melta's award win, it seems strange that a player who has never been included in any national representative squad — and many have been selected during his playing career — should be voted the best player in the 1984 National League.

Melta confirmed last night that the only time he was recognised by national selectors was in 1974 when he was in the Australian Schools squad to play England Schoolboys — but even then he did not make the team.

Melta confirmed last night that the only time he was recognised by national selectors was in 1974 when he was in the Australian Schools squad to play England Schoolboys — but even then he did not make the team.



□ **PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Sergio Melta receives the Wedgewood Bowl from Premier Neville Wran.

who spoke scornfully — and truthfully — about Sydney's dreadful facilities for staging top Soccer matches.

"We have Olympic Park in Melbourne and it is marvellous," said Paasavas, "but in Sydney you have nothing. It is about time the Premier and his colleagues did something about it."

Five minutes later, Neville Wran produced his promise of a long-overdue Soccer stadium.

He told the ASPA Awards Night audience: "We are quick to take a hint — event if it comes from a Melbourne man!"

"There is no doubt Soccer needs a well-appointed, well-established home in Sydney. We have got \$1,000,000 this year to help Soccer establish its proper home here — apart from any money spent on Parklea."

It was also a "money night" for the National League which has finally attracted a sponsor to succeed Philips.

Before the start of last night's function, Peter Ioannidis, Australian boss of Olympic Airways, the Greek national line, pledged his company would sponsor the NSL in 1985 to the tune of \$200,000.

"I hope we will be involved for many years to come," said Ioannidis.

This is good news for the NSL which has been grappling with cash problems for the past few years and it should ease the clash burden on many hard-up clubs.

\$1,000,000 FROM THE PREMIER

BY DAVID JACK

NSW PREMIER Neville Wran pledged \$1,000,000 to start work on a stadium for Soccer in Sydney.

This surprise announcement came from Mr Wran himself when he presented the ASPA Player of the Year Wedgewood Bowl to Sergio Melta.

His million-dollar promise was a quick reaction to an earlier speech by Sam Papasavas, chairman of the National League,



□ **PETER RASKOPOULOS** receives his trophy as Player of the Year from NSW ASPA president Lino Vella.

'RASKO' WINNER

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

PETER RASKOPOULOS, Sydney Olympic's captain, won the NSW Australian Soccer Press Association State Player of the Year award.

As well as the great prestige attached to the award, "Rasko" also received a beautiful trophy and a hi-fi cassette stereo valued at \$500, provided by Radio Rentals.

I spoke to Peter after he was presented with his trophy by ASPA president Lino Vella at the Journalists' Club in Sydney.

"This award means a lot to me. It is an honour and I can assure you I'm very proud to win it," said Raskopoulos.

I asked Peter if he could

voting till the very last week.

I spoke to Peter after he was presented with his trophy by ASPA president Lino Vella at the Journalists' Club in Sydney.

The 22-year-old reflected: "Well for starters, I was able to become fitter and I think that was the key.

"As far as the toughest match this year is concerned, I would have to say the Grand Final against Sydney City."

NSW members of ASPA were extremely grateful to Radio Rentals who, for the second year in succession, donated such a useful and valuable prize for the winner.

□ **COACH OF THE YEAR:** Eddie Thomson is presented with his award by Joe Vlasits.

THOMSON IS TOP COACH

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

EDDIE THOMSON won the ASPA vote for the NSL's 1984 Coach of the Year award at the annual ASPA-NSL Awards evening at the Apia Soccer Club.

The Sydney City coach received a magnificent inscribed trophy, which is sponsored annually by AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY.

The 37-year-old Thomson won the championship for Sydney City for the fourth time in his fifth year of coaching.

The normally very cool Thomson, this time emotionally stunned, said: "I am completely shocked this year. As I have been twice disappointed before, I held no hopes whatsoever.

"It was really a lovely sur-

prise and I am very honoured, as well as grateful to ASPA," Thomson said.

• **DOUG RENNIE**, the chunky referee from Sydney, took out the Referee of the Year trophy, sponsored by the Mitre Company.

Gary Power, also a NSW "man-in-black", filled second place.

Rennie, completely overcome with emotion on hearing his name announced as the winner, was presented with his glittering trophy by former champion referee Tony Boskovic.

"I never thought I would ever win this award, and being my last year in the big League, I had completely put it out of my mind.

"I am shocked, shaken, and very, very grateful to ASPA," Rennie, fighting back tears, told us immediately after his presentation.

This jovial, pleasant and very popular little Scot, being his very last year with the whistle in Soccer, hopes to remain in the code in some capacity.

• **ANTHONY FRANKEN**, Canberra Arrows and Australia goalkeeper, took out ASPA's Under 21 Player of the Year award.

Franken, who starred for the Australian Youth team last year in Mexico, stunned Soccer fans again last week in the Merlion Cup in Singapore with spectacular displays of goalkeeping for Australia's young side.

Despite still carrying traces of the shoulder injury he suffered in the NSL some weeks ago, Franken denied the powerful senior teams from Iraq and the crack side from Holland a stack of goals with his unbelievable performances between the posts.

• **MANIS LAMOND**, yet another young champion player from the Canberra Arrows club, playing in the club's National Youth League team, won the NYL Player of the Year award for the Australian Conference.

• **MANNY ANEZAKIS** (son of South Melbourne president Leo) took out the NYL Player of the Year award for the National Conference.

Lamond and Anezakis were the recipients of magnificent Stuart Crystal trophies, valued at \$1,000 each.

• **CHRIS KALANTZIS**, Sydney Olympic's exciting 17-year-old left winger, was named Network 0/28's Most Entertaining Player of the Year.



□ **REFEREE OF THE YEAR:** Doug Rennie (right) with presenter Tony Boskovic.



□ **MANIS LAMOND**



□ **MANNY ANEZAKIS**

GREAT END TO LONG SEASON

BELIEVE it or not, the 1984 season did finish last Sunday — but not for some players.

Referee Chris Bambridge's final whistle signalled the conclusion of the 1984 season.

It was a fitting end to see both of Australia's biggest crowd-pulling sides, Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne, do battle to determine this year's national champions.

I'm sure the players in both sides who aren't touring the world with the Socceroos next month are glad the season is over.

Surprises

You couldn't have asked for much more — a jam-packed crowd at St George Stadium and some of Australia's best players on show.

It was a great climax to a

season that's been full of surprises and, disappointingly, letdowns.

The revamped NSL competition failed in its bid to attract large crowds. As well as having too long a season, there has been a considerable drop in standards.

One of the high points of the year was the World Soccer Series. It was a great experience for those players lucky enough to be selected in the two Australian sides.

Playing against top-class opposition brought the best out of both teams — particularly the "A" side.

They surprised their world-class opponents with their determined style of play.

One of the big disappointments was the poor crowds attending some of the games.

To be selected in an Australian team takes years of sweat and hard work.

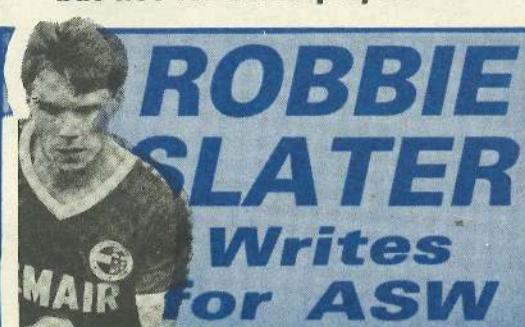
Letdown

In the WSS it was a big letdown playing in front of crowds of about 2,000 people in some games.

Some of the new clubs promoted to the NSL suffered tough initiations.

In fact, after such a great start Parramatta Melita were the last-placed Sydney team at the end of the competition and were relegated back into the State League.

Surely the big success has been the semi-final series — even after such a long season.



ROBBIE SLATER
Writes for ASW

It was also noticeable that the "development" teams — Wollongong, Newcastle and Canberra — enjoyed mixed fortunes this year.

Could this be the start of a new era for the club?

I'm sure teams like Sydney City, St George, Marconi and Apia Leichhardt would disagree.

With such a good first grade squad, which under closer analysis is very young, they have a big future.

Players like Peter Raskopoulos, Jim Patikas, Tony Dakos, Chris Kalantzis, Graham Jennings, Gary Phillips and Co will help them be a force in Australian Soccer in the coming years.

Since this is ASW's last issue for the 1984 season, I wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

New era

One club to stand out was last year's NSL Cup winners Sydney Olympic.



SYDNEY OLYMPIC's Chris Kalantzis gets away from David Skeen.

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LOOKING AHEAD FOR 1985

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DON'T FORGET PAUL CARTER



SETTLING into a new club can be a major problem for some players — but not Marconi's strong defender Paul Carter.

After such a great season with Leichhardt last year, Carter decided to change clubs. This caused him a great deal of trouble.

After a long battle to get his ridiculously high transfer fee reduced, Marconi stepped in and bought the youngster.

Carter missed a lot of pre-season training because of his problems but still managed, with the help of coach Les Scheinflug, to start the NSL competition.

And what a season it was!

Most players take a great deal of time to settle in and become accustomed to new surroundings but the ex-NSW youth representative, like team-mate David Lowe, fitted in quickly.

Consistent performances have been the order of the day and it is well-known that his strong overlapping runs and distribution have helped Marconi a great deal.

Just ask his team-mates — sometimes they don't know whether he is a winger or full-back!

The only setback Carter suffered this year was his omission from the national squad. In recent seasons he has been selected in preliminary NSW and Australian squads but has missed the cut-off.

If Marconi didn't make the semi-finals I'm sure Paul would have made the trek to Singapore with the Australian Under 23 side.

Despite recent setbacks, Carter is sure to play a large part in Marconi's quest for championship success next year.

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WHAT A FINAL!



THE Australian Conference Grand Final provided a great climax between two very strong and even sides.

Sydney Olympic turned the tables on Sydney City, the team that finished top of the table.

Goals by Marshall Soper and Mike Coady gave the spirited young Olympic side a 2-1 victory in extra-time.

ASW photographer David Jellings caught all the action at the Grand Final.

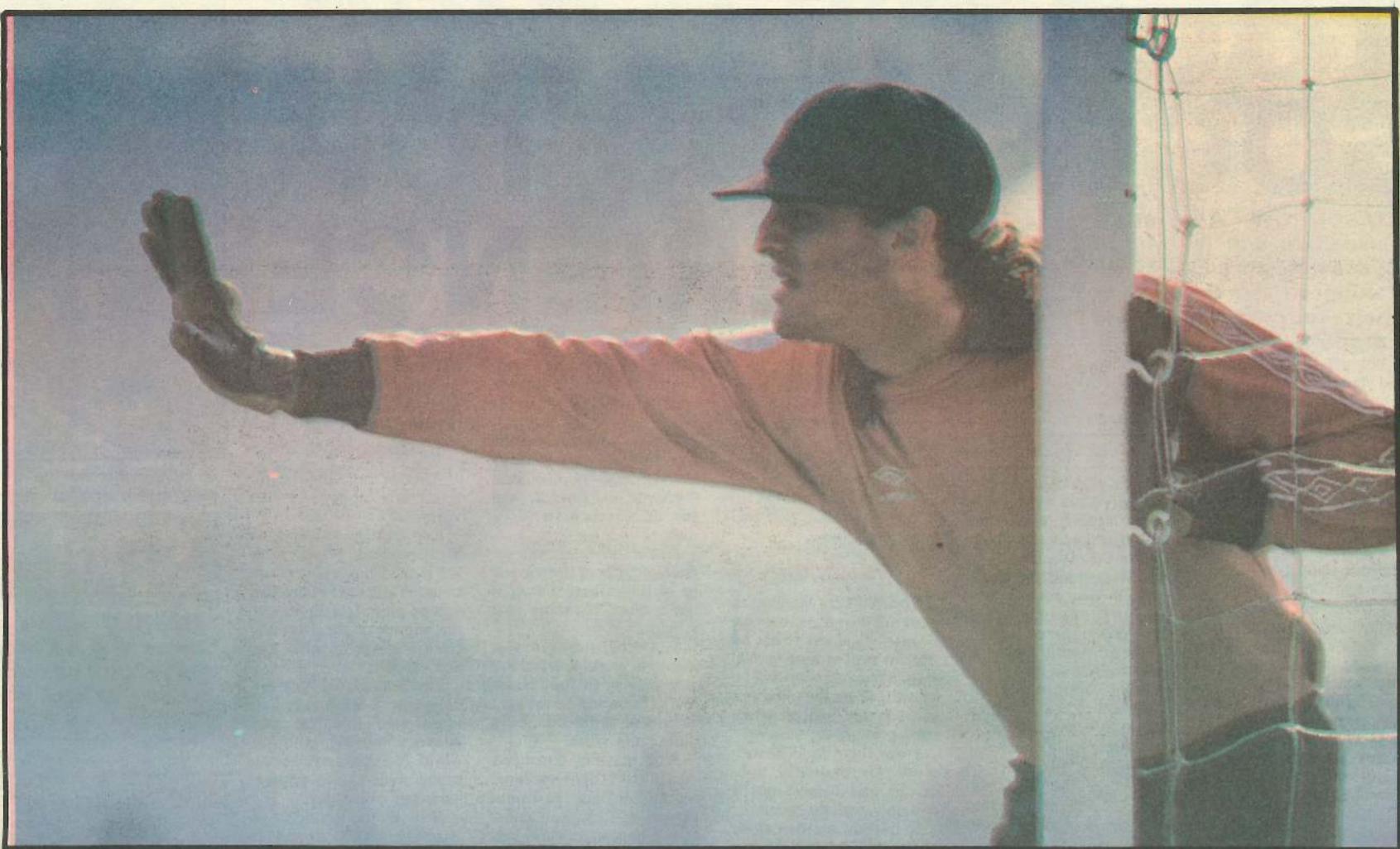


LEFT: Olympic goalkeeper Gary Meier holds the ball under challenge from Gerry Gomez.

TOP: Socceroo full-back Graham Jennings is shadowed by a Sydney City player.

TOP RIGHT: Tony Pezzano, the Sydney City and Australia goalkeeper, directs his defence.

RIGHT: Sydney City's Socceroo pair, Steve O'Connor (left) and Joe Watson close in on Olympic's Peter Katholos.



TOUR WILL GIVE SOCCEROOS TOP EXPERIENCE

TOMORROW, Australia's Socceroos will jet out of Sydney Airport bound for Peking on the first leg of their tour of China and Europe.

Not only is this the finest and most demanding tour ever undertaken by an Australian team, it is of the utmost importance and will have great bearing on next year's World Cup qualifying games.

The 13 match sortie has been designed to give the Aussie team valuable experience against top European and Chinese opposition and to get them battle hardened for 1985 — a year when it's all going to happen at international level here in Australia.

In football, there is no substitute for experience and nothing can beat games and competition against top professional opposition.

It has been said that 13 matches in 42 days against top European clubs is too much for our players and too demanding.

I don't go along with this trend of thought.

Certainly it will be hectic and at times a little torrid but coach Frank Arok is taking a squad of 22 players with him, and they should be more than capable of handling the situation.

Tour organizer Peter Sheean could easily have

drawn up a much lighter and weaker programme but what good would it have done our team?

BY TOM ANDERSON

If this had been the case the ASF could have played games against teams like New Caledonia and Tonga and saved revenue.

New Zealand for example fell into such a trap when they organised two "easy" games against Fiji at the start of their present world tour.

Also, opposition the Kiwis will meet in Britain is not in the same class as the Socceroo opponents.

The big number of games on the Socceroo schedule will ensure that boredom does not set in to the camp.

Strife

On a tour or in any series conducted over a period of time, boredom is the greatest bugbear of any coach.

In the last World Cup final series in Spain, I watched teams disintegrate before my eyes through boredom in the training camp which in turn caused serious internal strife.

The opening game against China for the International Ampol Cup in Peking will be one of the hardest matches of the tour and all the Australian players who played against the Chinese in the Merlion Cup in Singapore last year will agree with this.

No picnic

The Workers Stadium in downtown Peking on Saturday night will be packed with around 90,000 fans, a freezing wind will be blowing down the pitch and the Chinese will play like men possessed.

I was there in 1979 with Rudi Gutendorf's Socceroos and believe me it certainly was no picnic.

In fact, the weather alone was so cold even the brass monkeys stayed indoors.

After the opening game in Peking, the three remaining games in China will become easier and the weather will get warmer in Shanghai and Canton.

In Britain, our team will not only face tough opposition but could run into some heavy pitches as the British weather at this time of the year is not the best.

However the experience

of playing at Maine Road, White Hart Lane and Ibrox will bring the best out of our lads.

Ibrox in particular, the home of Glasgow Rangers is now one of the best stadiums in Europe and has an atmosphere of its own.

I have no doubt one of the highlights of the trip will be in Italy where Soccer is not a sport, but more of a religion.

Most of the greatest names in world football are now playing in Italy and a few of them will be rubbing shoulders with our boys during the visit.

With matches scheduled against Udinese and Fiorentina, our part-time players will get the chance to see how superstars such as Zico and Socrates live, train and play.

It could be that this experience will spur our fellows on to great heights in an attempt to win a contract in the land of the lire!

When the Socceroos land on the European Soccer scene it will be like moving into another world.

Professionalism at its highest level is the name of the game over there and by the time the tour ends I've

no doubt our lads will be thinking and acting like their European counterparts.

Interest

Already there is great interest in Europe over the visit.

Especially in Spain, Scotland and Wales who are in the European section of the World Cup where the second-placed team meets the winner of the Oceania section — hopefully the Socceroos.

The 1982 World Cup Final series in Spain fully demonstrated that the gap between the big guns of world football and the so called minnows is getting narrower every day.

Now is the chance for Australia to show its mettle and to cut a few giants down to size.

This Socceroo squad is packed with talented players good enough to more than hold their own in this tough European circuit.

They are also good enough to win through to Mexico in 1986.

We can only hope that the results and performances on this tour will more than bear this out. I have no doubts about it.

□ ZICO, who will be the Socceroos' opponent in their match against leading Italian club Udinese.

STAR CAMPS

ANOTHER series of School Holiday Camps will be conducted by the Star Soccer Camps during the forthcoming January school holidays.

This will be the sixth year that the Camps have been conducted. Coaching director John Doyle will co-ordinate the camps. John is a former Socceroo and Croatia and Apia player. He also conducted the Skills Segment on the popular Captain Socceroo TV programme.

Besides Doyle, leading NSL players include Peter Stone (St George captain), Tony Pezzano (Australian and Sydney City goalkeeper), Ken Wilson (Melita Eagles), Joe Watson (Sydney City Socceroo) and Peter Raskopoulos (Sydney Olympic captain).

Boys may also attend on a residential basis and will be accommodated at the University of NSW. Facilities such as swimming, Indoor Soccer, gymnasium and lectures are incorporated in the syllabus.

Apart from the coaching factor, boys will receive a T-shirt. Prizes are also awarded throughout the week, courtesy of Dunlop Footwear.

One main feature of the camps over the past years has been the progression of boys through the ranks. Notable players who have achieved considerable success include St George's Robbie Slater, an Australian "B" international, and Alex Bundalo, currently an U23 Socceroo and playing with the Wollongong NSL team.

Director of the Star Soccer Camps, Paul Bayutti, is negotiating with Fiorentina Soccer Club to arrange a trial for a lucky member of the Star Soccer Camps — Ricky Somboli (15).

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DEVELOPING AUSTRALIAN TALENT

ARE THEY AS GOOD AS '74?

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

TOP: Warren (left) challenges Fil Bottalico, Apia star and current club coach.

CENTRE: Richards is chaired from the field ad congratulated by Australia's 1974 World Cup coach Rale Rasic (right).

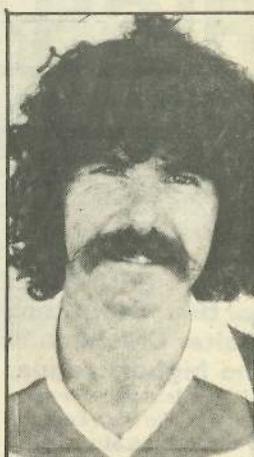
SOME people have rated this year's Socceroo side as the best to wear the Green and Gold — but is it as good as the 1974 squad?

Soccer followers will never forget the month of June in 1974 when the Australian Socceroos captured the imagination of the general Australian public.

Despite failing to win a game in the World Cup Finals, the Socceroos returned to Australia as heroes.

They were the first and the last Australian team to reach the World Cup Finals.

ASW spoke to four members of the 1974 squad and they have given their thoughts and ideas as to which is the better side and where Australian Soccer is heading.



CAMPBELL (centre) and Richards (right) with Billy Vojtek.

QUESTIONS

1. Is there any comparison between the '74 Socceroos and the '84 Socceroos?

1. Our side was well balanced — with no real superstars. We had been together for four years and consequently we were a tight unit.

Our coach Rale Rasic was the best in Australia and his dedication, application and knowledge was tremendous.

It will be a long time before Australia has a side as well balanced as the 1974 mob, but this year's team has more exciting players.

1. It's hard to compare both sides.

The current team benefits from the NSL and they have been well prepared during the past two seasons.

I think the 1970 Australian side was better than the '74 squad.

1. It's difficult to make comparisons. The standard, style, coaching and training techniques are different now.

I think playing the game 10 years ago would be better than now. One notable difference is that the 1974 side wasn't as fast and as competitive as the present team.

1. It's very hard to compare but I think the 1984 side is slightly better.

Their results during the past two years prove it. They are better organised and have had a much better preparation.

2. Has the standard of Soccer changed in the last 10 years?

2. I don't think there has been much change in the standard of the game since 1974.

In Sydney, there is a reasonable standard of players but very few of the teams would beat the 1974 club sides.

Although Sydney City have a lot of flair and imagination, I think they would find it difficult to beat some of the old Apia and Hakoah sides.

2. The game has changed a great deal.

Now the teams benefit from the higher level of Soccer but entertainment-wise it's not as good as 1974.

The recent World Soccer Series was the best I've seen a Socceroo side play.

2. Top players in the country are brought together more regularly now. Having nine NSL clubs in Sydney improves the standard.

In the old State League days, teams were spread over a greater distance in different competitions. Regular competition at a high level can only improve the standard of the game.

2. I think the standard of the game has gone backwards since 1974.

At club level, the quality of the player 10 years ago was much better. In recent years it has deteriorated and there are only a couple of players who stand out week-in-week-out now.

3. Has the level of individual skill improved?

3. There seems to be more flair in the game now.

We really didn't have fast, explosive players like Frank Farina and Jimmy Patikas.

Our brand of football was more basic.

3. When you say skill, it's not juggling or dribbling — it's how you do a thing in a certain situation.

The game is getting faster now. This is giving players less time and less space to work with the ball.

3. There seems to be more depth in the national team and consequently this has increased the amount of skill in the game.

Skill is needed to bring back crowds. Players like Frank Farina must be developed. Against Juventus he stood out like a beacon.

3. The game is much more aggressive now. There was quite a deal of skill in the 1974 side.

Overall, there were many more skilful players than now. And there were many better players in Australia before 1974.

4. What are Australia's chances of reaching Mexico?

4. To be honest, I don't think we have a real shot of making Mexico.

The current format to reach Mexico is much harder than the one we had to reach Germany.

I hope for everyone's sake they can get there, but the numbers and chances are working against them.

4. It's going to be extremely difficult for the Socceroos.

Even Brazil would have trouble making it to the Finals if they were in our draw.

If we win our draw against New Zealand, Taiwan and Israel, we then face Spain or Scotland.

With all that travelling it's going to be very hard.

4. It's going to be very difficult. The Socceroos face a tough programme.

Luckily they will be well-prepared and I'm sure the world tour will help improve their standard and work out what sort of style is needed to beat the European sides.

This will be of great benefit when they face either Scotland or Spain if they win the preliminary eliminations.

4. The Socceroos have a good chance — judging by recent results.

Israel have always been strong and they won't be a pushover. Don't forget New Zealand, they always cause trouble.

If they take each game as it comes, Australia should be able to make it.

5. How can the National League be improved?

5. The NSL is dying a natural death. It's a brilliant idea but the formula is wrong and I say that with regrets.

It's no use fighting the ethnic connotation in our set-up. Ethnic-supported clubs are needed now.

In the past Australian stalwart clubs like Granville, South Coast United and Auburn were strong.

Australia has made too many mistakes since 1974.

5. That's the \$64,000 question.

A lot of people are quick to criticise when something goes wrong but if anyone had an answer he would be the highest-paid executive in Australia.

5. A lot of mistakes have been made since 1974. They should have capitalised on the success of the 1974 Socceroos.

There have been too many major changes year after year. Supporters never know what's going on.

When people lose interest it's very difficult to get them back to the game.

5. Regionalisation hasn't helped the game a great deal.

Sure, I can understand the reasons why the NSL wish to save money by cutting air costs, but the crowds still aren't coming to matches.

You must bring crowds back to the game and one way I think that can happen is by staging more double-headers.

6. What is your current occupation and position in Soccer?

6. Since 1974 I have phased out of Soccer completely.

I finished playing for Marconi in 1979 and now run a sports store business with Marconi's Joe Rizzotto.

As well as running an Indoor Soccer complex, I have business interests in horses and greyhounds.

6. This is my 25th year actively involved in Soccer. I have worked for TV stations Channel 7, CTC 7, Channel 0/28 as well as radio stations 2UE and 2CC.

In recent years I have been writing columns for the Sydney Morning Herald, Canberra Standard and Sun-Herald.

My coaching clinics at the Gold Creek Homestead have been in operation since 1974.

6. I finished playing Soccer with Sutherland midway through the 1970s but then coached the club right through to the end of last year.

I'd spent a long time in Soccer and decided to take a break this year to spend more time with the family.

I don't think I'll be back in the game next year. Running my own business recycling non-ferrous metals takes up a fair bit of time also.

6. Since 1974 I have played for Marconi, Sydney City, St George, Melita and this year North Bankstown.

Last year I played for the Australian Indoor Soccer team and travelled to America.

I'm currently employed as an area sales manager with Rokset Industries and next season I would like to get into coaching.

NSW STATE LEAGUE

COMPILED BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

HIGH HOPES FOR FAIRY MEADOW

BY PHIL MURPHY

NEWLY-PROMOTED Fairy Meadow will name their coach for their State League debut in the near future and secretary Walter Chichkan says they will win their share of games in the higher league.

Fairy Meadow have won their way into State League by winning the Second Division championship and already have a strong playing staff.

"Even with our players from this year, I feel we could hold our own in the State competition," Chichkan said.

"Naturally we expect to strengthen our squad with at least two new faces but this will be up to whoever gets the coaching job."

Fairy Meadow have had 11 applications for the position and have selected five for their "short list."

In the near future, Fairy Meadow will be seeking increased financial support from the powerful Fraternity Club.

Fraternity, who also back Wollongong City in the NSL, are keen to encourage Fairy Meadow in their State League entry.

"We are confident they will give us strong support in 1985 because our promotion has created a lot of interest in the district," Chichkan said.

On the playing side, this year's team have indicated

they will be staying on.

The club's midfield of Mick Richardson, Neil Williams and Jock Morlando will definitely be back in action.

Ian Drain and Richard Piec, who missed the last part of the team's promotion campaign, will be back in the new year; along with utility player Dominic Cario.

Graeme Gardiner, who didn't play first grade this year because of personal problems, is likely to return to the side and he will be a big asset if he regains his best form.

Up-front, Steve Baker and Robert Giraldi both have the finishing ability to make things difficult for State League defences.

Baker does a lot of running off the ball and is always hard to pin down.

Teenage goalkeeper John Krajnovic is one play-

er who will be under tremendous pressure next season.

The youngster has improved tremendously since he made his first grade debut after being understudy to Warwick Young.

Krajnovic is a very dedicated player and will be working hard in the off-season to be in top shape when the pre-season games start.

Williams is a former Rothmans Medal winner in the State League, having won the award with a record number of points.

Richardson, at 31, was the Second Division Player of the Year this season and he is keen to become involved in the higher grade.

"If Joe Watson can play for Australia at 32, I feel I have another four years left in me at this level," Richardson said.

Full-back Micky White is Fairy Meadow's longest-serving player.

In the centre of the defence, Paul Jones and Moritzio Montecchi have been outstanding this year and Montecchi is equally effective in the midfield.



AUBURN-URUGUAY mid-fielder Steven Knight was rewarded for his efforts this year with the NSW ASPA Under 21 Player of the Year award.

The ex-Sydney Olympic mid-fielder also figured prominently in the Rothmans Medal, finishing with 19 points.

"I just can't believe it. It's been a great year," Knight told ASW. Knight talents don't just lie outdoors. He has been selected in the Australian Amateur Indoor Soccer team to tour New Zealand later this month.

KU-RING-GAI APPOINT NEW COACH

KU-RING-GAI have appointed a new coach for their 1985 State League campaign.

Denis Ford, who coached Blacktown City's youth team this season, replaces Vic Dalgleish.

Ford, an Englishman who was brought to Australia under the ASF's coaching scheme in 1975, has been director of coaching in Tasmania and Queensland and also coached Brisbane City in the National League.

He coached Gladesville Ravens in second division prior to his appointment at Blacktown.

He will be reunited with two former Ravens players at Ku-ring-gai — Glen Jeffery and Craig Bass.

A club spokesman said Ku-ring-gai wish Dalgleish success with the Australian team in the Under 16 World Cup next year.

— BRAD EARL

BIG WEEKEND AT GABBIE

FOR fans who just can't avoid going to Soccer matches, there's a big tournament at Blacktown City's Gabbie Stadium ground this Sunday.

Teams representing eight nations consist of many well-known players, with several National League players taking the field.

For instance, the England team includes Alex McPherson, Mickey Cross, Peter Hensman and Peter and Keith Falconer.

Australia's representatives are Bruce James, Stuart Selvage, Paul Carter and Mark Pullen.

Organiser Fred Dainey said there is also a novelty match planned between Sydney's National League coaches and the referees ... with a few old scores expected to be settled!

Proceeds from Sunday's Soccer carnival go to charity, so it is well worth going along to the Gabbie to support your favourite nationality.



ALTHOUGH the Soccer season officially concluded last week, the round-ball code is still flourishing in the west of Sydney.

This Saturday at Garside Park, the final of the Sydney Ethnic World Cup will be fought out by Chile (above) and Greece (below).

This fixture kicks-off at 7pm and a third v fourth play-off game between Uruguay and Germany precedes this game at 4pm.

Crowds of over 3,000 have attended previous games and everyone involved should be congratulated for their hard work in staging the tournament.



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STEVEN AIMS FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE

"I was really shocked. I didn't think I had that great a year."

That was Tom Steven's comment after finishing a close second to Avala's Ricky Budini in the NSW Rothmans Medal recently.

The Manly-Warringah captain feels that the prestigious award should be voted on by players and coaches. As he says: "referees have a big enough job controlling a game."

Despite Steven's negative feelings about his form this year, there is no doubt he was the Seasiders' most consistent player.

His grafting work and distribution in the midfield caused opposing teams a great deal of bother.

Steven is still undecided about his future with Manly.

"Manly are a progressive and hard-working club but I want to play in the National League," he said.

"I'm looking for offers and wouldn't mind joining a club like St George."

Steven came to Australia to visit relatives in 1977 but ended up going back to Scotland and buying out his contract.

"My sister lived here and

when I came over to Perth for a holiday I was still under contract with Forfar Athletic in Scotland," he said.

"I decided to return, buy out my contract and come back here."

After spending two years playing in Perth, Steven returned to Scotland and was reunited with good friend Sydney City striker Willie Murray.

They had played together at school and were signed up as apprentices by famous Scottish club Hibernian.

"Willie had been having trouble at Hibernian during the late 70's and both of us were thinking about going to America to play," Steven said.

"George Best had spent a year with Hibs and he had arranged a trial for us with San Diego in California.

That move came undone when Sydney City coach Eddie Thomson rang up Murray and asked him to come to Australia."

Steven came to Australia

during the second round of the State League competition in 1980. He played the last eight games for North Sydney Inter and at the conclusion of the season was quickly signed up by Sydney Croatia.

His successful stint with Croatia came to an abrupt end early in 1982.

"I was injured early in the season but coach Fil Bottalico wanted me to play



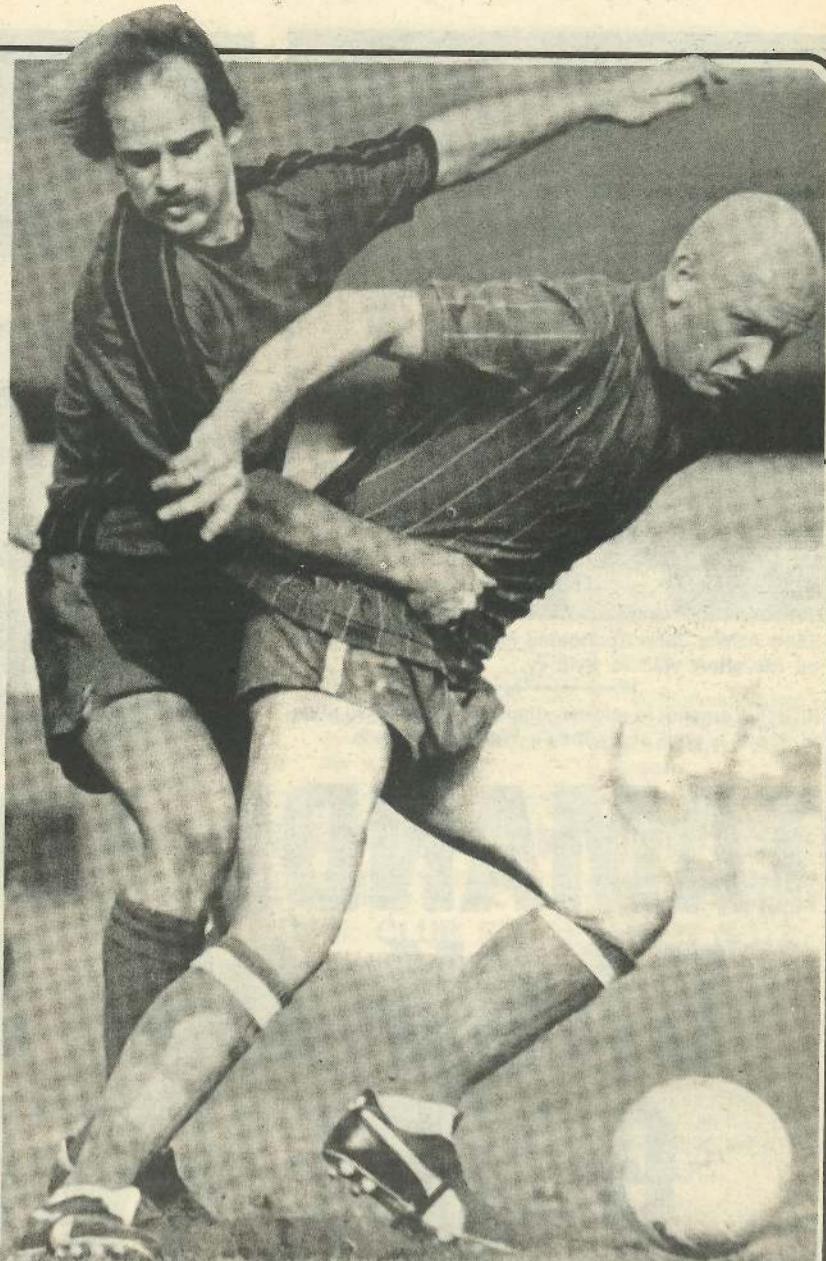
□ ABOVE: Tom Steven (left) congratulated on finishing runner-up in the Rothmans Medal award by his coach at Manly, Richard Alagich.

□ RIGHT: Steven is challenged by Rockdale Illawarra's Terry Jones.

in the Ampol Cup final," Steven said.

"My ankle wasn't up to it but I was forced to play. The rest is history. I aggravated the injury and missed the rest of the season."

During the past two years Steven has bounced back and has played a dominating role for Manly. It wouldn't surprise if he was snapped up by a National Soccer League side during the off-season.



HANTZIS MAY JOIN SYDNEY OLYMPIC

PROMISING Canterbury-Marrickville defender Spiro Hantzis looks set to play in the National League.

Last season's first grade "Player of the Year", Hantzis is hopeful of joining Greek-supported club Sydney Olympic.

"I haven't been approached but my club have said they won't stop me if I wish to join Sydney Olympic," Hantzis said.

Canterbury-Marrickville's new president told me he would be happy to see me play in the National League.

"I hope there is a chance I could join Olympic," Hantzis added.

This season Hantzis has been used in different positions in the defence as well as playing a couple of games in the midfield.



□ SPIRO HANTZIS

enthusiasm and were holding a position in the top four after the first few rounds.

Hantzis played an important role during the opening rounds. So much so, that in the recent Rothmans medal award he was the leading pointscorer after seven rounds with eleven points.

"I couldn't believe it when I was leading after the first count," he said.

"I knew I wouldn't win because I wasn't invited. It was great to be up there on the final points count."

At only 20, Hantzis is destined for a big future in the round-ball code and his aim to join a National League club should not elude him.



□ STEVEN PEACHEY, captain of the winning NSW Amateur Indoor Soccer all-age team, Silver Bullets.

AUBURN'S FATE STILL UNKNOWN

THE future of one of Australia's oldest club's Auburn-Uruguay is still undecided.

Despite this year's success in all three grades, the club has been plagued with financial problems and its future in the State League has been the subject of discussion in recent weeks.

"There have been no concrete developments in the last month," Auburn secretary Fred Parker said.

"However, we have had talks with three different clubs registered in the NSW Federation.

"One is supported by the Chilean community and the other two are prominent clubs in the NSW second division.

"I don't know which way we will go but there will be dual control if there is a takeover," Parker added.

The club's future will be decided by members at the Annual General Meeting late in November.

Parker is confident that first grade coach Ljubo Goykovic will stay with the club if there is an Auburn next year.

"We had a great year, and Ljubo was largely responsible for the club's success," he said.

"He is currently brushing up on his coaching techniques with Yugoslavian club Red Star Belgrade," Parker added.

After such a successful year, it will be a tragedy if Auburn don't compete in the State League next season.



□ MICK KELLY: Auburn's 1984 Player of the Year.

NEW SOUTH WALES AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION

invites applications for

- 1) U/14 and U/15 State coaches for 1985
- 2) U/13, 14 and U/15 State team trainers for 1985
- 3) U/13 State team coach 1986

Applications stating qualifications and experience should be sent to

Hon. Secretary: Mr F. Wilson,
13 Kells Road,
Ryde 2112

Phone: H. 80 5215

Applications close November 9, 1984.





TOP: ASW's John Economos greets Walter Tamandl on his short visit to Sydney.

RIGHT: Tamandl in mid-air, displaying class and style to score a goal at Sydney's Wentworth Park.



TAMANDL LOOKS BACK ON THE GOLDEN ERA

HE was born 48 years ago this month in Vienna and first came to our shores back in 1957 with the touring FK Austria team to play exhibition matches.

In 1959, this acrobatic goalscorer Austrian was to return and make Australia his home.

He joined the now-defunct Prague and, with other Austrian internationals, exploded onto the Australian Soccer scene, destroying all opponents with dazzling, electrifying Soccer, the likes of which had never been seen before.

A "Brazilian" invasion launched from Austria.

Walter Tamandl was a name that was to strike fear in the hearts of every goalkeeper in the country for the next eight years.

But let's go back a little.

In 1958, two of Tamandl's fellow Austrian internationals had decided they would like to make Australia their home and arrived to sign up with Prague.

Their names?

Mastermind of all midfielders, Karl Jaros, and the deadliest of strikers, Leo "Sabrina" Baumgartner.

Jaros, from midfield, could knock a ball up front to his striker's request.

And Baumgartner? Anywhere from 40 metres, he was in range of goal.

Leo rifled in long-range rocket-hits on target from all angles.

Golden era

These were the artists who packed the grounds where fans were entertained by scintillating Soccer.

Jaros and Baumgartner were to be reinforced by more magical Austrians 12 months later.

In 1959, Sydney saw the arrival of Walter Tamandl, accompanied by another two Austrian internationals, Andy Saghi, a lethal inside-forward, and Herbert Ninaus, a wizard left-winger.

The Australian Soccer scene went crazy as it

heralded the "golden era." Crowds of 20,000 to 33,000 jammed into the Sydney Sports Ground or the Showground to be entertained by these super-skilled Austrians.

In a matter of months, Prague formed a team of unbelievable players who delighted thousands of fans and destroyed the morale of all opponents.

There were only two "foreigners," meaning Aussies, in the team.

TAMANDL: I was horrified with the facilities, especially the very poor playing surfaces. As well, the overall standard was poor and Soccer was basically a kick-and-run affair.

ASW: Who were some of the stars in your day that you rated highly?

The defenders were Hirson, Shirwin and O'Neal. Midfielders were Les Scheinfeld and Jaros.

And up-front we had an exploding battery of FIVE strikers, firing power-laden shots at the target.

Going across from the right were: Tony Schwartz, Tamandl, Baumgartner, Saghi and Ninaus.

When I met Tamandl recently, it was our first meeting in 16 years, as the old Prague team eventually broke up and players went different ways.

After retiring, Tamandl tried his luck at coaching with mixed success in Sydney, with Pan Hellenic and Apia, before eventually drifting north to Queensland on the Gold Coast to live a life in semi-retirement.

Walter had married Wendy, who was the first secretary of the ASF back in those days, and they live in Labrador with their three children, Andrew (16), Daniel (13) and the baby, Ernie (6).

So I was surprised to meet Tamandl last week at a Sydney NSL club.

Glowing with a rich Queensland tan and retaining his youthful good looks, he was quietly sitting in a corner with an old friend.

I asked Walter if we could have a short chat about Soccer today compared with yester-year.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ASW: What struck you most when you first arrived in Australia?

TAMANDL: I was horrified with the facilities, especially the very poor playing surfaces. As well, the overall standard was poor and Soccer was basically a kick-and-run affair.

ASW: Who were some of the stars in your day that you rated highly?

TAMANDL: There were many really. Saghi, Ninaus, Mavropoulos, Dunai, Rodriguez, Jelisovic, Campana, Giacometti, Gauto, Lord and so on. There were too many to name them all now. But that's what's wrong today. There are no stars.

ASW: What were some of the best matches you played in?

TAMANDL: I would have to say all the three matches NSW played against Costa Rica. We won all three, 4-2, 5-1 and 3-0. They played highly-skilled Soccer and the Sydney Sports Ground was packed.

ASW: What's wrong with Australian Soccer today?

TAMANDL: The coaching I feel is all wrong. We must develop our own style of Soccer, as now it is greatly influenced by the British style but there are no top-class British coaches here.

The long ball is needed in Britain as the game is played often on very heavy surfaces, but ours are hard, fast and bumpy.

I also feel that a great degree of dedication is mis-

sing from most of our players today. They have it quite easy and have many distractions that interfere with dedication, which is demanded in a professional.

ASW: What made Soccer so great in your playing days in Australia?

TAMANDL: The stars that existed then. The people rushed out every Sunday to see them and be excited by these same stars. They were stars because they had enormous skill that pleased the crowds.

ASW: What's Australian Soccer's future?

TAMANDL (hesitating): I don't know really. Players today have not got the high level of skills we had. Also, the inflow of migrants has slowed down. But basically, the players today have to perform. It's a must if they want crowds back.

Again I have to say that the level of coaching has to rise dramatically and immediately.

ASW: What makes what you call an "artist?"

TAMANDL: A good player IS an artist. He must not be the same as all the other players. He is an individual with an individual skill the others don't have. But to-

day everybody just knocks the long ball forward.

Long ball Soccer is not good and doesn't need skills. There is nothing to look forward to.

ASW: What is your opinion is urgently required?

TAMANDL: I would be sending some of our young coaches overseas to learn and update on techniques. Not necessarily to England, either.

Walter Tamandl moved in 1967 to Pan Hellenic as player-coach, taking over from Manny Poulakakis.

The next year, under Tamandl's control, Pan Hellenic reached the NSW Grand Final against Hakoah with players such as Loukanidis, Westwater, Smith, Blitz, Karagiannis, Omeros, Patrinos and Jorgos.

ASW: Are there any players in the NSL you like?

TAMANDL: Jim Patikas excites me. He is fast and and not afraid to go at people. He is also skilful but at the same time quick. Terry Butler is a good player. He guides his team as does Peter Raskopoulos, who is a good passer of the ball and controls things from the middle.

But for pure skills, I would have to say Joe Watson. He has a lot going for him.

English names and it's no big deal or fuss. South American clubs largely have English names, River Plate, etc, and Soccer has thrived there for years. Same with Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay.

ASW: Would you coach an NSL club today?

TAMANDL: Maybe. That's something I would have to seriously think about. At the moment I am coaching the Greek-sponsored club Brisbane Olympic in Queensland, but I still have my original house in Coogee. I don't know about that last question.

ASW: Are there any players in the NSL you like?

TAMANDL: Jim Patikas excites me. He is fast and and not afraid to go at people. He is also skilful but at the same time quick. Terry Butler is a good player. He guides his team as does Peter Raskopoulos, who is a good passer of the ball and controls things from the middle.

ASW: From Pan Hellenic where did you go?

TAMANDL: I moved to Apia as coach and there we had some good players as well. Dave McQuire, young Terry Butler, Johnny Russell and we had nine-internationals like Stan Ackerly, Pat Hughes, George Keith, the two McKinnons and Georgie Blues.

ASW: Do you feel that clubs with ethnic names have a negative effect on Soccer?

TAMANDL: No, not at all. In Austria, most clubs have

Tamandl flew out of Queensland two days later, leaving me with refreshed memories of the old days, the Golden Era of Australian Soccer.

An era where the grandstands were packed and Soccer was on the verge of toppling the opposition codes.

Thanks for the memories, Walter Tamandl.



KARL JAROS: midfield mastermind.

READERS FORUM

In this spot every week, we shall publish extracts from readers' letters — good or bad! If you want your opinions aired, please keep letters and postcards short and to the point. Write to The Editor, AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, PO Box 408, Broadway, 2007.

Give us a fair go!

In reply to Soccer Lover, ASW 23/10/84: the writer is in need of correction but firstly I must point out that Newcastle Rosebud United is in no way connected with Newcastle KB United (now-defunct).

They were accepted into the NSL as the representative team for the Northern NSW Soccer Federation.

Now, Newcastle Rosebud United are not in debt to the tune of thousands of dollars. In fact, at a recent members meeting it was announced that they had met ALL their commitments for the 1984 season.

Secondly, although Adamstown Oval is council-owned, and could well do with much-needed improvements, there are far worse grounds among the current NSL teams. However, Rosebuds do boast a very modern licensed club no more than 50 metres from the ground.

I can understand Soccer Lover's disappointment and concern about Melita Eagles, as I had the opportunity to visit their home ground this year. When the planned improvements are completed it will be an excellent facility and that's what the NSL needs. But please don't point the finger in this direction; it is not warranted.

In conclusion, may I wish Melita a speedy return to the top division, as their hospitality when we visited them will be sadly missed and, who knows, perhaps Soccer Lover will pay a visit to Newcastle where he can learn at first hand what Rosebuds United have to offer.

May I also take this opportunity to wish each and everyone, both readers and writers, a happy Christmas and a prosperous 1985.

EDDIE BOARD,
Carey Bay, NSW

In defence of Kosmina

In answer to Frank Scicluna (Readers Forum 23.10.84), the Slickers will continue to "get away with" these incidents for as long as paranoid supporters from other clubs continue to imagine them.

I refer to the incidents earlier this year where John Kosmina was blamed for an accident to his Socceroo team-mate Alan Davidson, in which Davidson almost swallowed his tongue. Somehow the supporters saw that Kosmina was responsible, despite the video showing he was far from the scene.

Also, in a match against Melita, the crowd imagined they saw Kosmina injure Alex McPherson's hand, when in fact it was Murray Barnes going for a 50-50 ball.

Sydney City have had outstanding success in Australian Soccer and consequently attract criticism from supporters of other clubs, jealously looking for excuses to explain their team's loss to them.

For instance, Kosmina's sending off against Olympic was for a handball, and he apologised to the Olympic club for his loss of temper. It seems Olympic reported him in retaliation for being beaten by a team with only eight players.

Stuart Johnston's facial injuries were caused by a rock thrown by a Melita supporter, who was aiming for John Kosmina. Earlier in the day, the Australian captain and his wife were abused and had a cup of coffee thrown over them as they entered the ground. His wife has been hit at other matches, Tony Pezzano has been pelted with cans and coins and Eddie Thomson has been injured by a flying can. These things happened off the field and on the field the same has occurred. Soccer is a physical game and injuries on the field are not confined to City's opponents.

It's time this criticism of the best team in the League stopped. Isn't it enough for the City-haters that they have had their legitimate 1984 title as champions taken from them, and given to a team which finished below them in the competition, and could not manage to beat them in the normal 90 minutes of play once in five matches this year?

MARK RILEY,
Granville, NSW

Were they cast-offs?

I READ with much mirth Don Balmain's "Women's Soccer" column from October 9 in regards to Queenscliff Women's Soccer Club.

When one reads the entire article and reads between the lines a glaring inconsistency appears. In one paragraph the team manager refers to the players as cast-offs from other clubs and yet later on admits that 14 of the 15 players were members of the Manly-Warringah representative side. Surely other clubs in the Manly Association do not "cast off" players of such calibre — especially after spending so much time to develop them? It appears that this team highlights the blight upon women's soccer that permeates down from the higher levels, ie, off-season poaching.

The continued poaching of good players from the average teams to build super sides only polarizes competitions to establish one or two teams who use the rest of the teams lumped in with them as whipping posts to build up their own egos. The real "heroes" are the sides forced to play against them. If they can last out a season being regularly thrashed by poached ego-trippers, then they are the ones who deserve the pat on the back!

MATTHEW WHITEHOUSE
Queenscliff, NSW

AUSTRALIAN TEAM GIVES IRAQ A BIG FRIGHT

IRAQ, rated the strongest team in this year's Merlion Cup tournament in Singapore, beat Australia's Under 23s in the semi-final — but only after struggling to survive.

The teams could not have been closer. After 90 minutes, the score was 0-0 and after extra-time, it was 1-1.

So survival depended on penalty kicks and it was Iraq who triumphed with a 9-8 victory from penalties.

It was a disappointing end to Australia's hopes, although bearing in mind the strength of the squad selected for the Singapore trip, the young Aussies did as well as, and perhaps

better than, was expected.

Coach Jimmy Shoulder and his players had wins against Indonesia and Singapore and a heavy defeat from the Netherlands Amateur XI in the qualifying rounds.

They were given little hope against Iraq but did themselves proud.

One wonders what might have happened had Shoulder taken a few more experienced players to the Merlion instead of the

rather raw youngsters.

Perhaps Australia might have won the Cup for the third year running.

In the semi-final against Iraq, it was Australia who scored first to give Iraq an unexpected fright.

That opening goal came in the 17th minute of extra-time and it was a great solo effort from Frank Farina, who beat a couple of opposing players before putting the ball in the net.

Iraq equalised seven minutes later through their

captain Hussein Mohamad with a header.

Australia's goalkeeper Tony Franken gets better with every appearance and was certainly the "man of the match."

One of the Iraqi officials said: "We could have won by four goals had it not been for Franken."

In the penalty shoot-out, the goal which clinched Iraq's passage into the Merlion Final was scored by Abdul Fattah Jassin . . . the team goalkeeper!

DUTCH WIN AGAIN

AUSTRALIA suffered a third defeat in the Merlion Cup in Singapore when the Netherlands Amateur XI beat them 3-0 in the play-off for third place.

So the Dutchmen inflicted two defeats (scoring eight goals) on the Under 23 Socceroos.

Netherlands goals came from Anno De Kleine, Rob Meulendijk and Chusi Reglar.

NSL COULD CONTRACT IN 1986

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE National Soccer League committee must burn the midnight oil between now and the annual general meeting on December 8 to put together their 14-team League proposal for 1986.

On Saturday the Australian Soccer Federation Executive threw the proposal back in the lap of the NSL to discuss the entire matter with their clubs.

Certainly there will be some heartburn and strong pressure to be retained from the 10 clubs who could drop back to State League.

There is a deal of water still to flow under the bridge, but by the same token there is a deal of determination to see if the good old days can return and the crowds of the major clubs enthused.

On simple mathematics, if the likely clubs are ascertained, the 14 of them would outnumber the other

10 in the ultimate vote.

The scheme would not directly keep the development areas and the newer clubs, although it could improve the crowds.

There could be a big problem to sort out an equitable promotion and relegation system.

In other news, the ASF improved its net assets position from \$131,029 in 1983 to \$210,744.

Ian Brusasco (Qld) and Michael Weinstein (Vic) are the vice-presidents.

The World Cup Committee is now John Constantine (NSW), Michael Weinstein (Vic), Ian Brusasco (Qld) and Jim Karapetis (SA).

just come as a guest for three or six games.

The obvious one is Kevin Keegan who said he would come here for a charity match, but we want a player who will sign a full-season contract.

"We now have agents in the UK and Europe checking out the available players".

City could do worse than sign Tommy Hutchinson or Frank Worthington, veterans who starred as "ring-ins" for Manchester United in the World Soccer Series earlier this year.

Worthington, in particular, would be a drawcard because of his goalscoring ability.

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WOODS NOMINATED

NATIONAL junior secretary Rod Woods has been nominated to stand for president of the NSW Amateur Federation.

Strangely enough, the nomination comes from Sydney Branch vice-president Dennis Rothwell, whose own St George Association is standing behind the present incumbent Ian Holmes.

St George, Canterbury, Nepean, Gladesville and country associations nominated Holmes.

A product of the strong Canterbury district, Holmes has been an innovator and, as always, that can lead to a degree of friction until the body politic catches up.

At 27 years, he is one of the most promising administrators in the code.

Mr Woods has been successful in his secretarial appointments.

This year, some administrative-type hassles have had to be overcome, but at least the NSW Amateur Federation presented a united front to the public with a greatly limited degree of friction on show.

Although nominated for secretary, Mr Woods has signalled that he may pull out of that race.

Standing for that job are present secretary Frank Wilson and Jim Wakeling.

Mr Wakeling has been nominated for assistant

secretary along with Barry Lutherborrow of Southern Districts and Western NSW secretary Michael Brey.

The tours and promotions position, held by Terry Coates, is under challenge by Don McDougall from Granville.

Certain of re-election are George Churchward, John Hedison and Frank Broughton.

Sydney Branch's longest-serving official Eric Arneil is retiring after 21 years on duty.

Churchward will also retire as treasurer but he will remain active in NSW affairs.

TOP JOB AT NOWRA

GRANVILLE representative official Frank Rossettin reckons that NSW Amateur officials should sit up and take notice of the job done by Shoalhaven district in the U12 NSW State Championships at Nowra.

"Towns and cities such as Nowra should be allocated older age groups in future championships," he said.

Organisers J. Gaudie, T. Cusack and Mrs Liz Tooley of Shoalhaven Soccer Association had the whole town behind them and "Nowra News" gave tremendous coverage.

The Shoalhaven City Council gave a civic reception at their beautiful Civic Centre.

The Association put on a smorgasbord dinner at the Police Boys Club. Each boy was presented with a

Shoalhaven City Council banner by the Major, Ald

Harry Sawkins.
A great job, Shoalhaven!



□ MAYOR Harry Sawkins doles out yet another banner to a Granville District player.



□ PRESENTATION day at the U12 State Championship finals held at Bomaderry Oval.

MACARTHUR DISTRICTS SOCCER FA

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

PONDEROSA PARK, CAMDEN

SUNDAYS... OCTOBER 28th, NOVEMBER 4th, 11th, & 18th

Under 14s & Under 16s... 9am to 11am

Under 13s and Under 15s... 4pm to 6pm

Enquiries: Mr Terry Coates

Telephone: 70 3228 (B)
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secretary along with Barry Lutherborrow of Southern Districts and Western NSW secretary Michael Brey.

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Certain of re-election are George Churchward, John Hedison and Frank Broughton.

Sydney Branch's longest-serving official Eric Arneil is retiring after 21 years on duty.

Churchward will also retire as treasurer but he will remain active in NSW affairs.



BACK ROW: C. Makepeace (manager), W. Needs, D. Gleeson, G. Minnet, D. O'Connor, A. Hubbard, M. Heighway, B.J. Follett (coach).
FRONT ROW: G. Cross, B. Mertens, G. Follett, G. Sprod, M. Gribble, B. Makepeace.

UMINA UNITED'S GREAT SEASON

UMINA UNITED Soccer Club, on the NSW Central Coast, is very proud of its Under 10A team.

The boys have been together since they joined the club in 1980 in the U6A team.

This year has been their first season in competition as competitive Soccer is not played on the Central Coast until the boys reach the age of 10.

Their long wait to get into the competitive arena was well worth it in 1984. The team finished the season

as minor premiers, scoring 94 goals whilst conceding only eight.

They then went on to take the premiership shield in a very exciting grand final against the powerful Wyoming team after two periods of extra-time.

During the season, the team accepted invitations to participate in Round Robin tournaments. To

their premiership honours, they added the Adamstown, Kanwal and Killarney Districts Carnival competition trophies. During these competitions the team scored 52 goals and conceded only one.

The standard of Soccer played by this junior team has brought praise from many an ardent follower. Together, with their impressive record, this

speaks highly for the boys individual skills and team play.

The boys attribute a great part of their success to the team spirit and comradeship which exists between the players.

With up and coming young players such as those with the 10as from Umina United, Soccer can only become stronger in this country.

UNRAVELLING THE YOUTH LEAGUE

HOXTON PARK set out to gain success for 1984. In fact, coach Terry Wales hand-picked the players with a view to taking out both the NSW U18 State Cup and the Champion of Champions.

The State Cup went Hoxton's way with a 2-0 win over Manly-Warringah's Balgowlah RSL.

Then the team went through extra time to defeat Ku-ring-gai's Kissing Point 4-3 and become the Champion club of its grade in the State.

At time of writing, the team had played 35 games, scoring a massive 235 goals with Ivan Calverley collecting 51.

Led by their brilliant midfielder, Rick Dolatowski, the team played in the Bankstown district as there was no suitable grade in Southern Districts.

In between times, Hoxton Park played in the In-

door Soccer competition. Aided by skilful Bankstown first grader Aytek Genc they played as the Tor-nados.

Coach Terry Wales believes that the team will have an outstanding U21 season with just a few changes.

The trouble is, that it will not take place until 1986.

Sydney Branch secretary Fred Bones wants to see three divisions with promotion and relegation and the last club going out of the League.

This system would be based on overall performance over the U13 to U16 grades.

The Youth League is bound to take junior clubs from NSW State League First and Second Division clubs.

The proposal will advance from the policy meeting to the annual meeting for decision.

ARMIDALE ACTION

It has been known to snow on Christmas Day at Armidale, the NSW Northern Tableland's university city.

But in this case there is a slushy pitch at Armidale High School. Armidale and Northern NSW goalkeeper Derek Jenkins has the ball and he prevents Booragul High School's Darren Macbeth making contact.

Booragul won this fifth round Bill Turner Cup game 4-0.



ST SPYRYDON S & E CHAMPS

HARD-WORKING St Spyrydon U14 captured the Southern & Eastern Association premiership and the KO Cup this year.

The boys have had Tom Adam as coach and Con Haris as manager.

Tom started with this team in 1980 at the age of 17. The reward runs: 1980, ninth U10/2; 1981, sixth U11/2; 1982, seventh U12/2; 1983, premiers U13/1 and quarter-finalists in the NSW Champion of Champions.



BACK ROW: Tom Adam (coach), Steven Stavrou, John Skotidis (capt), Nick Haris, Stan Malaxos, Con Sorras, John Faria, Con Haris (manager).

FRONT ROW: John Keotokas, Alex Katsis, Nick Nistazos, John Adam (vice-captain), John Loumanis, Michael Michaloudis, Mathew Remondos.

CHAMPS OF CHAMPS IN PARKLEA ACTION

TOP: MERRYLANDS took out the U9 title. In our picture Revesby Workers (dark strip) are clearing their penalty area as Merrylands went to a 2-0 win.

During the season Merrylands won the Granville District U9 Div 1 minor and major premierships, the President's Trophy and the big KO at Umina on the Central Coast.

CENTRE: MARCONI's champion U12 team wait for their presentations after the 3-1 win over Sydney City. A big crowd gathered in the indoor stadium to follow the proceedings.

BOTTOM: A SECTION of the huge crowd of Blacktown United supporters urge their team on in the under 10 final. Winston Hills (eight shirts) won the final 1-0.



NATIONAL TITLES

VENUES for the 1985 National Championships have been decided.

The Under 13s will be held in Sydney at Parklea, U14s in Whyalla, South Australia, and U15s in the Latrobe Valley, Victoria.

The Victorian JLMC has not yet chosen the venue, but it could be Yallourn at Moe.

VICTORIANS PROMINENT IN U16 SQUAD

TEN Victorian youngsters are thrilled over being chosen by national U16 coach Vic Dalglish to join the Australian training squad in January.

The 35 players will gather at the Endeavour Hostel in Sydney on Saturday January 12.

They will be reduced to 25 after a week's camp and the balance will train on until January 26.

The final squad will be chosen at Easter to compete in the first World U16 Cup, which will start in China on July 31.

The Victorian contingent have shown out well and have thoroughly earned their chance to impress Dalglish.

The States of origin of the remainder of the training squad are: Northern NSW 7, NSW 6, Western Australia 5, Queensland 3, South Australia 3 and Northern Territory 1.

Thirteen of the squad were included in the 16 who won the Oceania qualifying tournament in New Zealand in December.

Unexpectedly, the age cut-off was altered from August 1, 1968, to January 1, 1969, so three youngster were unlucky to miss out.

Perth twin Craig Naven has won training squad selection along with his brother Gareth, who played in Auckland.

John Govan from Wallsend captained his high school team in its recent Turner Cup victory.

Craig Foster (Goonellebah) and Justin Davis (Ocean Shores) have won selection from the Far North Coast of NSW.

The training squad is:

QUEENSLAND: Scott Bell, Neil Cotgrove, Damien Butler.

NSW: Michael White, George Bouhoutsos, David Barnett, David Scott, Steve Refenes, Steve Georgeakis.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: Peter Politis.

NORTHERN NSW: Gavin Parry, Craig Foster, Michael Graham, David Aranyi, Tony Razmouski, Justin Davis, John Govan.

VICTORIA: George Jolevski, Robert Runji, Mark Talachich, Colin Cooper, Paul Trimble, Stan Thodis, Alex Eacott, Craig Devonport, John Markouski, M. Radobuljac.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Gareth Naven, Craig Naven, Clifford Collins, Scott Racey, D. Nicolai.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Brett Thomson, S. Niscoli, P. Theodorakatos.



JOHN GOVAN: selected.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION PRESENTS

INDOOR SOCCER

COMMENCING FEBRUARY 1, 1985

ENTRIES CLOSE JANUARY 20, 1985

LOCATION: Soccer Headquarters, Parklea

AGE-GROUPS: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Senior Men and Women

PLAYING TIMES: Friday night — juniors and A/A men

Saturday afternoon — juniors

Saturday night — A/A men and women

Sunday afternoon — juniors

Sunday night — A/A men and women

BOYS SOCCER SKILLS COACHING CAMPS

AGE 11 TO 15

LIVE-IN OR DAY GROUPS

CAMP NO 1 — commencing Sunday January 13

to Friday January 18, 1985

CAMP NO 2 — commencing Sunday January 20

to Friday January 25, 1985

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME COURSES

BASIC LEVEL 1 COURSES — commencing January to March 1985

PRELIMINARY LEVEL 2:

COURSE 2 — October 27, 28, November 3, 4, 10, 11

COURSE 3 — November 17, 18, 24, 25, December 1, 2

BRIDGING COURSE — December 8, 9

SENIOR LEVEL 3 COURSE — January 6-11, 1985

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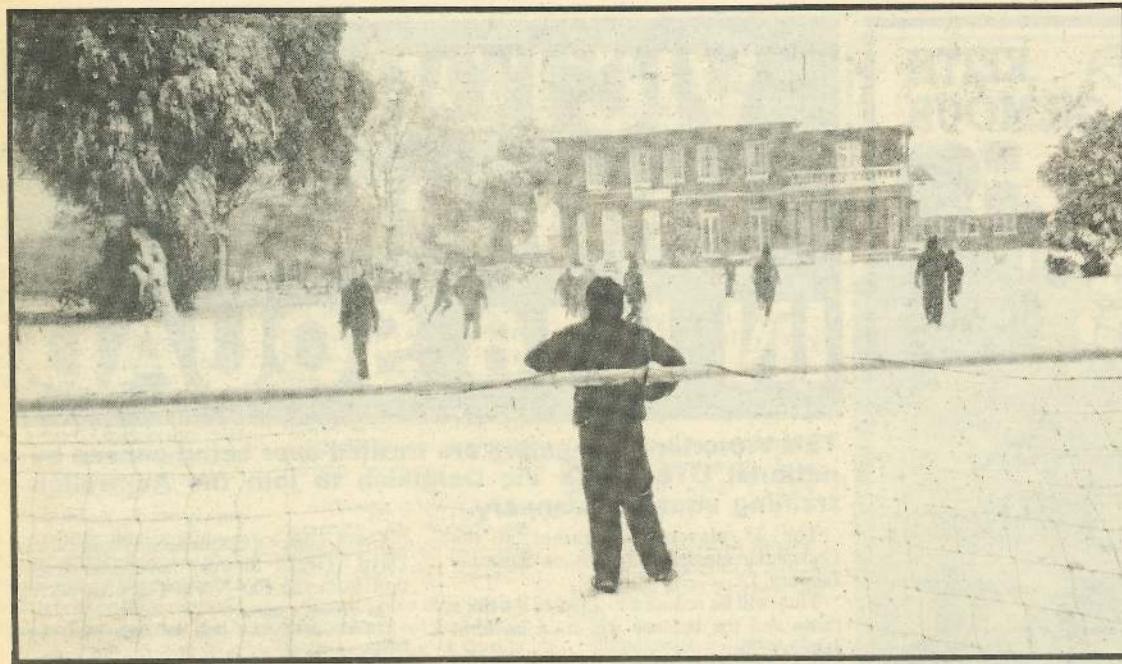
INFORMATION BY WRITING TO

NSW Soccer Federation

482 Meurants Lane,

Parklea, NSW 2148

PHONE 629 1800



□ TOP: Fun in the snow for the Auburn boys in England.
□ BOTTOM: The Aussie lads, with coach Rob Wozniak at right, meet Arsenal manager Don Howe and leading midfielder Brian Talbot.

UK MEMORIES FOR AUBURN

EARLY this year a team of Auburn youth players visited England for a series of six matches.

In addition, they met up with Australian Craig Johnston at Liverpool, called in at Manchester United, Arsenal, West Ham and Tottenham.

The party was centred on Westfield House at Ipswich.

The Auburn boys beat the "England PGL" team 2-1.

This is a special training unit of highly talented boys whose training is sponsored by an English millionaire.

Many senior clubs draw players from the squad, which toured America the previous year.

Players are drawn from the Scottish border regions as well as from England.

CHULLORA DOES IT AGAIN

FOR the fourth year, Chullora has brought an age-group of Champions of Champions back to Bankstown.

This year Chullora's Under 14 side did just that.

The 14/1s have just completed a very successful season being undefeated in their competition, scoring 95 goals for and only conceding 14.

They scored 35 goals more than their nearest rivals.

They also won the Presidents Cup without conceding a goal.

With pre-season, competition, social games and Champion of Champions, these boys have played some 40-odd games, but it was all worthwhile.

In their first game of Champion of Champions, they defeated Macarthur 2-0, then Earlwood 1-0 and Hornsby Heights 1-0, thus advancing to the final.

against Carlingford Redbacks.

In a very convincing performance they came out winners 4-1, saving their best for the final of this prestigious event.

This team was most capably led through the season by captain Robert Quee — one of the longest-serving members of this team.

Their coach sticks to one of Soccer's oldest sayings that a coach is only as good as the talent of the players he has to work with and these boys certainly have the talent.

As you can see by this team photo these boys certainly have something to smile about.



□ CAPTAIN Robert Quee proudly holds the Champion of Champions trophy.

BACK ROW (left to right): Bob Condon (manager), Denis Perimal, Gustavo Fernandez, Scott Camsell, Don Papas, John Damico, Harry Hayek, David McGlyn, Ashley Henderson (coach).
FRONT ROW: Michael Riedy, Jack Webster, Arthur Karoumtios, Richard Comdom, Robert Quee (captain), Greg Jenkins (absent) Marcello Ortiz.

SUTHERLAND'S PRESENTATION



□ IT looks like happy days! Sutherland president Harry Dening (left) pictured as host at the annual dinner. At rear is NSW Amateur Soccer Federation president Ian Holmes and seated (right) is National Junior secretary Rod Woods with Mrs Judy Woods.



□ SUTHERLAND's State League coach Johnny Lavin delivers the goods to Miranda Magpies' Shirley Gardley and Brian Larter.



□ SUTHERLAND SHIRE club president Peter Gray (centre) after the presentations to Kirrawee Soccer Club officials Graham Harris and Marlene Kneeshaw.



□ ENGADINE EAGLES' Kay Stotzenberg and Greg Tolhurst are loaded up with trophies.



BURWOOD FINALLY WIN

BURWOOD's Under 12/1 side this year added a final win to their impressive list of honours.

The team were minor premiers three years running but each year lost the grand final.

However, this season the reverse happened, with Apia pipping them in the first-past-the-post race, but Burwood got their revenge with a 1-0 win over Apia in the Cup series, which replaced the grand final.

Coach Bill Freestone hopes several boys will

make the Youth League ranks with the Canterbury and District Association.

Five boys were members of Canterbury and District's U10 metropolitan champion side two years ago.

They were Caleb Finks, Kon Ngo, Shaun Freestone, Damon Bray

and John Allen. Mario D'Amico also played with the reps in 1983.



BERRIES BIG 'DO'

CANTERBURY and District Soccer Football Association is still way up there when it comes to its standing in the code in NSW.

Recently, over 800 people crammed into the main auditorium at Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL Club for the end of season presentation night dinner.

Vice president Albert Stein and assistant secretary Naomi Golding handled affairs in fine style in the enforced absence of president Ron Piper and secretary Jim Wakeling.

Amongst the guests on the night was Tom Sanders, the Marrickville Soccer Club identity with encyclopaedic knowledge of the code.

Tom can recount the

deeds of great players of yesteryear back to the mid thirties.

Jack "Billy" Hughes, Jimmy Osborne, Ray "Tugger" Bryant, Artie Quill and Roy Crowhurst spring readily to his mind and also the great Goodyear — Metters battles.

These days, Marrickville includes no fewer than nine all-age teams in its ranks.

Its members provide much of the backbone of Tempe Leagues Club, which is regarded as headquarters for club functions and cabarets.

The adjoining Mackay Park is fully utilised by the club.

And Jim Corben, well-known Punchbowl identity, was there. These days the club draws strongly on the 15,000 Lebanese and Greeks in their direct area.

Lining up for a Division 3 trophy was Col Rae, who started playing for Belmore as a kiddie in 1947. So, 37 years later he is still in good shape and turning out for the club.

And that is the Canterbury spirit.

WILHELMINA U16 VICTORS

ON SUNDAY, October 20, at Parklea, Wilhelmina Sports Club's Under 16 team beat Balgownie 3-0 in the Champions of Champions final.

The following players brought the honours to the club and district: David Renfrey, Andrew Lonergan, David Butler, Wayne O'Donnell, David Colyn, Mark Polizzi (captain), Martin Beardall, Alex Kuusik, Wayne Logue, coach Bill Beddag Jnr. and manager Bill Ariesen.

Sunday November 11, at 4 pm there will be the presentation to the U16 and U9 teams in the club auditorium. As guests of honour, they are hoping to have the Sydney City players to do the presentations.

Wilhelmina is planning to greatly expand the Soccer section for 1985 and is now looking for players of all ages. They offer free registration for 1985, plus a Soccer Youth club, experienced coaches under the guidance of a qualified professional coach.

Registration and information forms are now available in the club foyer at 122-128 Rooty Hill Road North, Rooty Hill.



QUEENS PARK KIDDIES

QUEENS PARK record was 13 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss in U6a in the Southern & Eastern SFA, with a 66-10 goal record. The group is: John McCallum, Ryan Humphrey, Richard Abbot, Armand de Saint-Salvy, Peter Okkersa, Chris Magmus, Charlie See, Tom Denton. Nice going boys. The coach is Roger Humphrey.



FIRST YEAR BOOST

CONGRATULATIONS to the boys of Ashfield United U11s, who ran fourth in their competition in their very first season.

The players are: Paul Christie, Patrick Connors, Oliver Bosvesak, Andre Berenger, Jacek Lipiec, Ryan Shepherd, George Karanikolas, Peter Wilson, Michael Sozernoc, Tony Hatzistamatis and David Harris, with coach Aris Patikas.

CANTERBURY & DISTRICT SOCCER

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

LOOKING AHEAD FOR 1985

FEDERATION SECOND DIV STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE, SECOND GRADE, U18

REPS U11, 12, YOUTH LEAGUE U13, 14, 15, 16

SELECTION TRIALS

**SUNDAY MORNING 9 am — October 21, November 4
Tasker Park, Canterbury (Next to swimming pool)**

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 5 pm — October 17, 24
Timbrell Park, Five Dock (Henley Marine Dr)**

**ALL ENQUIRIES — John Doyle
Mick Tzavellas
Danny McKilbride 642 6950**

ALL WELCOME — SOCCER CLINIC OPERATING



□ TOP job at the Canterbury presentation went to life member Tony Martin. Here he gives a congratulatory peck to a lassie from one of the winning teams, Roselands.

HONOUR FOR NEWCASTLE

THE allocation of the 1984 Australian U14 championships to Newcastle was quite an event.

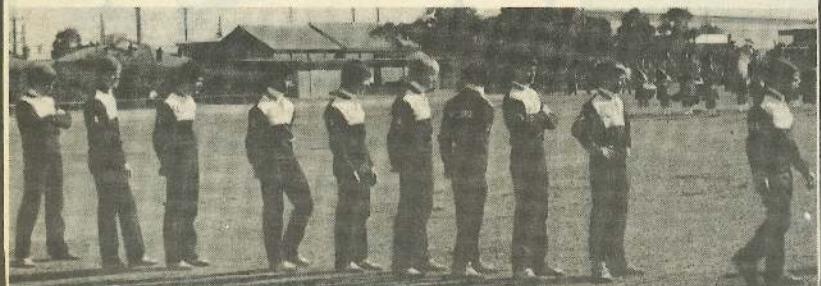
Fred Eshman, director of Northern NSW Soccer Federation and prominent amateur officials made speeches at the opening ceremony as did John Price, MP for Waratah.



□ JOHN PRICE, Member for Waratah, speaks at the opening ceremony.



□ FRED ESHMAN, with microphone, and Gordon Currie, vice-president of Newcastle Soccer Association.



NATIONAL U14 champions, Victoria, parading prior to the championships.

WILKINS MUST GET BETTER

AC MILAN have not seen the best of new UK star Ray Wilkins yet.

Wilkins admits he has not been playing as well as he would like, but puts this down to Milan's team tactics.

"I've been asked to play a new role, more forward than the one I've been used to with Manchester United and England," said Wilkins.

"And the further forward you go in Italy, the tighter you get marked."

"I've been a bit disappointed with my performances. But it is testing me and stretching me — and that can only be a good thing in the long run."

Wilkins says Kevin Keegan struggled for a time when he left Liverpool for SV Hamburg but once he settled in to his new team's style, he became an even better player.

"Kevin was fantastic before he went to Europe, but he was even better when he returned," said Wilkins.

□ RAY WILKINS on the ball for England against Northern Ireland.



OVERSEAS RESULTS

ITALY

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atalanta v Napoli	1-0					
Avellino v Udinese	4-1					
Como v Ascoli	1-0					
Juventus v Roma	1-1					
Lazio v Cremonese	2-1					
Milan v Inter	2-1					
S'doria v Torino	2-2					
Verona v Ftna	2-1					

PORTUGAL

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
G'maraes v Benfica	1-4					
S'gueiros v Porto	0-1					
Sporting v B'nenes	2-0					
Setubal v P'nense	2-2					
Varzim v Braga	1-0					
Academ v Boavista	1-1					
Farense v Rio Ave	2-1					
Penafiel v Vizela	1-1					

SPAIN

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	6	2	0	16	4	14
Valencia	5	2	1	14	2	12
Sevilla	5	2	1	9	6	12
Sporting	3	4	1	8	3	10
At Madrid	4	2	2	9	5	10
Re Madrid	3	3	2	9	5	9

HOLLAND

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haarlem v Nac Breda	1-3					
PSV v Pec	4-1					

SLIPS FROM EXPERTS

BRITISH TV and radio commentators are rated among the best in the world but even the experts can slip up at times.

For instance, the experienced Kenneth Wolstenholme once said: "The referee's looking at his whistle and he's about to blow his watch."

Another classic came from Peter Jones: "Wil-

liams beat Shilton from 35 yards — and you don't beat Shilton from 35 yards."

Or how about David Coleman's effort: "Mickey Thomas has scored on his debut for Chelsea. That's his first goal for the club."

ENGLAND FACES THE CHOP

MIKE ENGLAND's successful reign as manager of the Welsh international team could be coming to an end.

When Wales lost to Spain in Seville in the World Cup eliminations, it virtually ended Welsh hopes of qualifying for the 1986 Cup in Mexico.



HARKOUK EXEMPT FROM ARMY

RACHID HARKOUK has been called up for Algeria's World Cup squad.

The Notts County midfielder, who was born in London, had a phone call last week from Algeria's ambassador in Britain inviting him to play.

Harkouk's dad was born in Algeria which is why he

qualifies.

In fact, Harkouk might have played for Algeria in Spain in the 1982 World Cup had he not been suffering from a cartilage operation.

He was first asked to play for the African team six years ago when he was with Crystal Palace. He refused to play because he

was told he would have to do military service if he went to Algeria.

Now his dad has been to Algeria and brought back a written guarantee that the boy will not have to go into the Army if he plays in the World Cup.

This time, Rachid Harkouk has been happy to accept selection.



□ RACHID HARKOUK: accepted selection.

WEST HAM MISSED THE FINN

PASI RAUTIAINEN, with 21 international appearances to his credit, is Finland's outstanding player.

He has played for Bayern Munich in West Germany and is now with Arminia Bielefeld, where he gets win bonuses of up to \$3,000.

But Pasi has set his heart on playing for an English club. Not any club, mind you. He wants to join Liverpool.

"They are my favourites," he said.

It is a mystery how West Ham United failed to get this flying Finn.

When he was only 14, Pasi trained with the Hammers, and returned each year at his own expense in the hope of cracking a contract.

Next May, his contract with Bielefeld expires and that's when he hopes to move to England.

ZICO SELECTS HIS TOP FIVE STARS

NEARLY all of the world's greatest footballers are now playing in the Italian first division.

Brady.

"I rate myself on their level, but we are not talking about me," said Zico.

Zico has nominated his top five, in no particular order, as:

Socrates, Rummenigge, Platini, Flaco and Liam

stars but he has not proved to be among the elite. His value has been established more because of his youth than his ability.

The parting shot from Zico was: "Maradona has failed to exhibit the maturity and consistency you must have to earn the rating of a world star."



□ JESPER OLSEN (right) in action for Denmark.

OLSEN NOT A BEST

JESPER OLSEN, the new pin-up player at Manchester United, is regularly referred to as the new George Best.

That's not surprising because the Danish international has great pace, exciting skills and a sharp eye for publicity — just like Best.

Now the girls are flocking to see him play, again bringing back memories of George Best.

Jesper, however, says he is not to blame for this.

"I never saw Best play, but if the fans want to compare me with him, that's up to them."

"All I am doing is my own thing," said Olsen.

IN UNCLE'S FOOTSTEPS

SPORTING LISBON have made a bid for Welsh international Jeremy Charles, who joined QPR from Swansea City for \$120,000 a year ago.

Jeremy, son of Arsenal star Mel Charles and nephew of Leeds United's John Charles, has been struggling for a first team job with QPR.

QPR have agreed to sell Jeremy for a fee which would be double what they paid for him.

The player says: "I am

YUGOSLAVIANS STILL UPSET

YUGOSLAVIA, always rated one of Europe's best international teams, are still stunned by the 6-1 drubbing they took at the hands of Scotland at Hampden Park some weeks ago.

Strangely enough, it was the visiting Yugoslavians who scored first.

Then came the tartan avalanche and goals by Davie Cooper, Graeme Souness, Ken Dalglish, Paul Sturrock, Mo Johnston and Charlie Nicholas.

This was the biggest victory Scotland has achieved

during the six years management of Jock Stein.

It's a pity there was not a larger crowd to see the fireworks. Only 20,000 spectators turned up in a stadium which once accommodated 149,000.

Much of the blame for that should go to the Glasgow weather — it was cold, windy and rainy.



FOSTER GETS ANGRY

STEVE FOSTER looks like leaving Aston Villa only seven months after joining the club from Brighton.

Foster was left out of the team which thrashed Manchester United 3-0 and he admits there has been a personality clash with team manager Graham Turner.

Turner claims Foster wasn't picked because he had not trained enough after getting over flu but the player insists he did extra training before the United game.

"I get no encouragement from the manager," complained Foster.

The former Brighton star has played only 14 matches for Villa since they paid \$320,000 for him.

HOW LOW CAN THEY GET?

HOOLIGAN spectators hit a new low at the Barnsley v Leeds United match at Oakwell.

They stoned disabled supporters, hurling bricks, bottles and cans at the toughened glass which protects them, and the helpless people could do nothing except watch in horror from their wheelchairs.

A police spokesman said, "The mindless attack on those disabled people was sickening. More than 50 people were arrested.

When the final whistle was blown on the match, Leeds fans poured over the

fence and players ran for the tunnel to escape serious injury.

The police, with batons drawn, tried to head off the mob. When the fighting broke out, corner flags were used as javelins.

UK tables

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	12	8	1	3	26	16	25
Everton	12	7	2	3	24	18	23
Tottenham	12	7	1	4	25	11	22
Sheffield Wed.	12	6	3	3	24	15	21
West Ham	12	6	3	3	20	19	21
Man Utd	12	5	2	5	20	14	20
Nott Forest	11	5	3	3	20	15	18
Sunderland	12	4	6	3	18	15	17
Southampton	12	4	5	3	15	14	17
Newcastle	12	4	5	3	24	24	17
Chelsea	12	4	4	4	15	11	16
Ipswich	12	3	6	3	14	14	15
QPR	11	3	5	3	19	21	14
Norwich	12	3	5	4	16	18	14
Aston Villa	12	4	2	6	17	27	14
West Brom	12	3	4	5	17	16	13
Coventry	12	3	3	6	9	14	12
Leicester	12	3	3	6	18	27	12
Luton	12	3	3	6	15	24	12
Liverpool	11	2	5	4	12	14	11
Watford	12	1	5	6	23	29	8
Stoke	11	1	4	6	11	26	7

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford	11	8	1	3	16	8	25
Birmingham	12	8	2	3	16	8	25
Blackburn	12	7	3	2	25	11	24
Portsmouth	12	7	3	2	18	11	24
Barnsley	12	6	3	3	14	7	21
Grimsby	12	7	0	5	24	20	21
Brighton	12	6	2	4	15	8	20
Shrewsbury	12	6	2	4	22	16	20
Man City	12	6	2	4	17	12	20
Leeds	12	6	1	5	20	12	19
Fulham	12	6	1	5	20	21	19
Oldham	12	5	2	5	15	23	17
Wimbledon	12	5	1	6	20	24	16
Charlton	12	4	3	5	18	14	15
Huddersfield	12	4	3	5	11	17	15
Wolves	12	4	2	6	17	23	14
Sheffield Utd	12	3	4	5	19	22	13
Middlesbrough	12	4	1	7	16	23	13
Carlisle	12	3	2	7	17	20	11
Crystal Palace	11	2	2	7	11	18	8
Cardiff	12	2	0	10	15	29	6
Notts County	12	2	0	10	13	31	6

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	13	8	3	2	25	12	27
Bristol Rovers	13	7	4	2	17	9	25
Bradford	13	7	3	3	17	10	24
Rotherham	13	7	3	3	18	12	24
Doncaster	13	7	2	4	25	18	23
Bristol City	13	6	4	3	20	16	22
Gillingham	13	6	3	4	25	22	21
York	13	6	3	4	18	17	21
Brentford	12	6	2	4	18	13	20
Hull	13	5	5	3	17	12	20
Derby	13	5	3	5	17	15	18
Walsall	13	4	6	3	17	16	18
Wigan	13	5	3	5	12	15	18
Burnley	13	4	5	4	19	20	17
Reading	13	5	2	6	17	21	17
Bournemouth	13	4	4	5	15	13	16
Newport	12	3	5	4	11	12	14
Lincoln	12	3	4	5	16	14	13
Bolton	13	4	1	8	25	24	13
Orient	13	4	1	8	16	24	13
Swansea	13	4	1	8	15	24	13
Preston	13	4	0	9	14	31	12
Plymouth	13	2	5	6	21	31	11
Cambridge	12	1	2	9	11	25	5

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hereford	13	9	2	2	22	9	29
Chesterfield	13	8	4	1	25	11	28
Bury	13	8	3	2	20	10	27
Darlington	13	6	6	1	20	9	24
Peterborough	13	7	3	3	19	11	24
Crewe	13	8	0	5	21	18	24
Port Vale	13	6	4	3	16	12	22
Hartlepool	13	6	4	3	17	16	22
Tranmere	13	7	0	6	22	18	21
Colchester	13	6	3	4	26	24	21
Blackpool	13	5	3	4	16	14	20
Mansfield	13	4	5	4	9	9	17
Scunthorpe	13	4	5	4	21	19	16
Swindon	13	4	4	5	19	18	16
Chester	13	3	5	5	15	19	14
Exeter	13	3	5	5	16	21	14
Southend	13	3	5	5	16	21	14
Stockport	13	3	4	6	14	22	13
Aldershot	13	3	3	7	16	21	12
Wrexham	12	3	1	8	18	23	10
Northampton	13	3	1	9	14	23	10
Torquay	13	2	4	7	11	20	10
Rochdale	13	2	3	8	10	21	9
Halifax	12	3	0	9	7	21	9

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts

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CHARLIE HELPED OVER A CRISIS

NOW Charlie Nicholas has recaptured his best form for Arsenal, he has revealed how another player helped him over his many problems last season.

With Charlie unable to impress the Arsenal fans, and people suggesting he had been a bad buy from Celtic, he had a phone call from Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish.

That call changed everything for Nicholas.

"Kenny has always been

my hero. He put a lot of basic suggestions to me and I lapped up his advice," said Nicholas.

"Later he made many more phone calls. And the more we talked, the more I decided my future was at Arsenal and things would

eventually get better."

It's a nice story. Soccer is a tough game — as Kenny Dalglish himself is discovering this season — but Dalglish still found time to keep in touch with a player going through the horrors and help him over a crisis.



□ CHARLIE NICHOLAS (centre) celebrates a goal.

BLACK MARK FOR GEORDIE FANS

NEWCASTLE UNITED supporters are rapidly earning the label of "England's most racist Soccer spectators."

This has infuriated Newcastle boss Jackie Charlton who called the troublemakers "lunatics who need locking up."

Some Newcastle fans give coloured players a terrible time.

This happened to West Ham's Bobby Barnes, who was jeered and taunted by the Newcastle fans recently and was also pelted with bananas and oranges.

Charlton stormed: "I want this trouble stopped. This aggro is driving me mad. Geordies have no history of prejudice but I am concerned that these idiots will create the impression that coloured players are not welcome here."

Bobby Barnes is certainly not the first black player to cop the sickening treatment at St James Park.

NO FAVOURS FOR OXFORD

OXFORD UNITED has a new sponsor, the big English newspaper "The Sunday People."

Oxford's chairman is publisher Robert Maxwell. He also happens to own the newspaper which will now sponsor the team.

But does this mean Oxford players can look forward to favourable reports



□ FRANK WORTHINGTON

LIVERPOOL are combing the whole of Scotland for new players, with the accent on young talent.

The scout briefed to find the future stars is ex-Liverpool manager Bob Paisley.

"I want to move around quietly but that's not very easy," said the easily-recognised Paisley.

HATELEY ISN'T WORRIED

MOST players are wary about taking penalty kicks. They don't like the job because, with so much depending on their kick, they like to leave the problem to others.

This sort of thinking does not apply to England's Mark Hateley, who had a great match against Finland in the World Cup eliminations.

When Hateley flew into London from Italy, where he plays for AC Milan, he immediately volunteered to take penalties against Finland.

Hateley said: "Manager Bobby Robson said we needed to nominate somebody for penalties so I just said I'd take them. If you're confident enough, why not?"

"You just step up and crack the ball. All goalscorers should love taking penalty kicks anyway."

For a young man only just promoted to the England side, Hateley is certainly not lacking in confidence.

FRANK STAPLETON is set for a comeback with Manchester United, adding even more strength to the powerful Old Trafford forward line.

Since having a knee operation last July, Stapleton, captain of the Irish Republic's international team, has played only one first team game and three in the reserves.

But he was on stand-by for Ireland's World Cup elimination game against Norway in Oslo, won 1-0 by the Norwegians.

It is expected that Stapleton will soon reclaim his place in United's strike force.

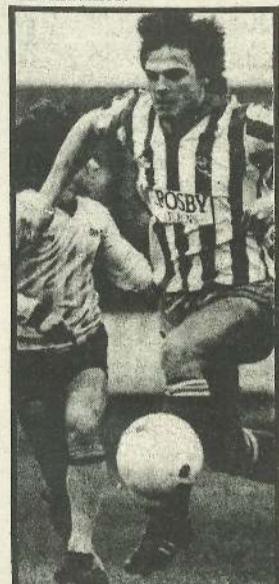
Manager Ron Atkinson hinted at this when he said he had no thoughts about transferring the goalscorer Irish star.

GARY'S GOAL GRAB

GARY BANNISTER of QPR is the new goalscorer sensation of the English first division.

After scoring twice in his team's 4-1 Milk Cup win over York City, Bannister inspired a lot of praise from QPR boss Alan Mullery.

Said Mullery: "Gary's got a lovely knack of scoring all the time. In his career he has averaged a goal every two games but this year, he's scored 12 in 12 matches."



□ GARY BANNISTER

GARRY COMES BACK

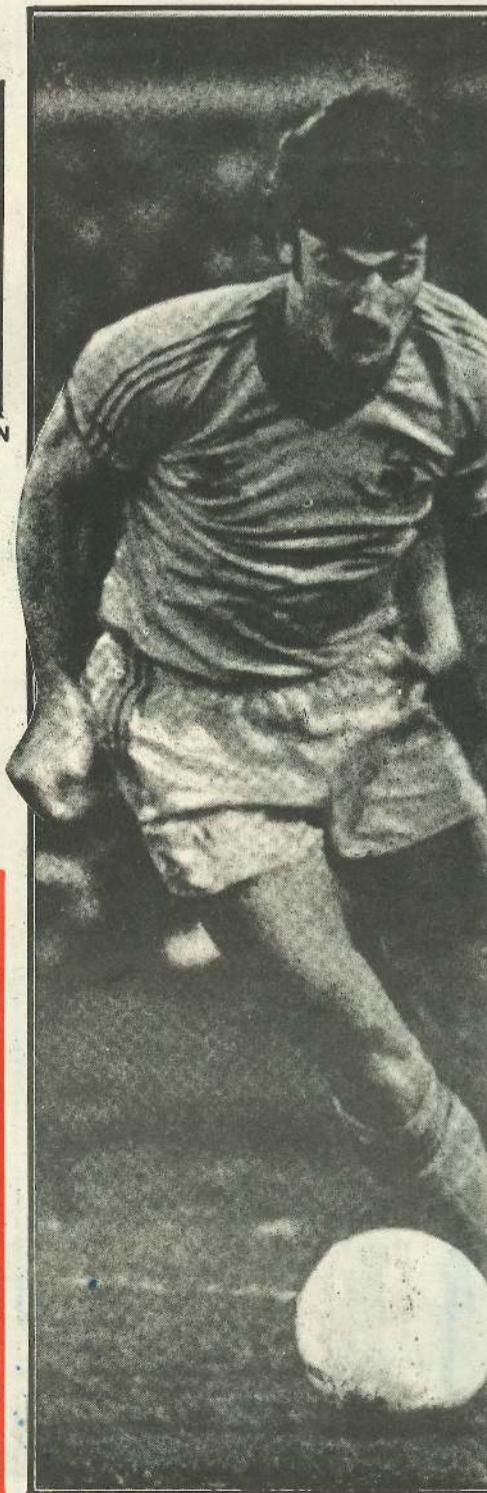
GARRY BIRTLES was back at the Nottingham Forest ground last week, but not to do any training.

The international centre-forward has been flat on his back for six weeks in a courageous attempt to remedy an injury.

The injury handicapped Birtles when Forest toured Australia this year.

His doctor has told him he cannot do anything more strenuous than walking until there is another check-up on the injured back in two months.

"It's great to be back again, even if I cannot think about playing for some time," he said.



MYSTERY MAN MAKING MONEY

ONE person on Manchester United's payroll earned \$170,000 last year but the big guessing game is ... who collected all that cash?

Popular choice is team captain Bryan Robson, but maybe it wasn't a player at all.

It might have been the team manager Ron Atkinson.

For the year ending last May, United had a British record profit of \$2,700,000, so no matter who gets the big wage, the club can obviously afford it.

WEST HAM are tipped to buy Ipswich Town's Irish international star winger Kevin O'Callaghan.

O'Callaghan slapped in a request for a move after Ipswich dropped him.

HIBERNIAN offered Billy McNeill \$1,600 a week to take over as team manager, but the former Celtic star turned down the offer to stay with Manchester City.

ASA HARTFORD, the former Scottish international midfielder, has moved to Norwich City but will be a non-contract player.

RASKO RULES!

PETER RASKOPOULOS established himself as one of the finest midfielders in Australia in 1984 as he led Sydney Olympic to their Australian Conference Grand Final win over Sydney City.

His great form in the second half of the season inspired Sydney Olympic's surge to the top.

Raskopoulos has been playing in the National League since he was 15, and in 1981 captained Australia in World Youth Championship matches.

Now 22, 'Rasko' is sure to be a key man in Australia's World Cup bid next year.

